

The **H** *Magazine for the Christian Home*
Hearthstone



- **Are You Ready for Family Week?**—*Joseph Ray White*
- **Myself and Others**—*Wayne Clinton Clark*

BERKELEY BAPTIST DIVINITY SCHOOL
BANDFORD FLEMING LIBRARY

MAY, 1961 - 25c

The *Hearthstone* Magazine for the Christian Home

E. LEE NEAL, *Editor*

RUBY CRADDOCK, *Assistant Editor*

DOROTHY CLAYBOURNE, *Layout*

Contents

ARTICLES

Myself and Others

(Article for Parents' Discussion Groups)	Wayne Clinton Clark	1
Are You Ready for Family Week?	Joseph Ray White	6
Looking Ahead—for Your Family		
(Article for Parents' Discussion Groups)	Lester E. Paul	8
How to Keep Your Child Interested in Music	Muriel Lederer	10
The Christian Family	Ruth C. McDowell	19
"Why Didn't My Mother Want Me?"	Jeanne Rousseau	21
Checkbook or Family Giving?	Joyce Knudsen	22

STORIES

Mothers for Mother's Day	Bessie M. Barker	3
Story for Children		
David and the Dark	Enola Chamberlin	18

FEATURES

Biblegram	Hilda E. Allen	5
Family Worship		13
Meeting Plans for Parents' Discussion Groups		
1. What Do You Think of Yourself?	Wayne Clinton Clark	24
2. What Do You Think of Others?	Wayne Clinton Clark	25
I. Financial Needs of the Fatherless Family	Lester E. Paul	26
II. Funerals and Memorials	Lester E. Paul	27
Family Counselor	Donald M. Maynard	29
Books for the Hearthside		31
Over the Back Fence		32
Poetry Page	Inside Back Cover	

Cover Illustration by Art FitzSimmons

Published Jointly Each Month by

Christian Board of Publication

WILBUR H. CRAMBLET, *President*
P.O. Box 179, St. Louis 66, Missouri

The American Baptist Publication Society

RICHARD HOILAND, *Executive Secretary*
1703 Chestnut St., Philadelphia 3, Pa.

Vol. 13

Editorial Committee

No. 5

Marvin E. Smith, *Director of Local Church Curriculum Division*
Jessie B. Carlson, *Children's Editor*
Ray L. Henthorne, *Youth Editor*
Sherman R. Hanson, *Assistant Youth Editor*
E. Lee Neal, *Adult and Family Life Editor*

Benjamin P. Browne, *Director Christian Publications*
Marian Brawn, *Children's Editor*
Dorothy I. Sill, *Asst. Children's Editor*
Berthold Jacksteit, *Youth Editor*
Francis E. Whiting, *Adult Editor*
Joseph J. Hanson, *Director Family Life*
Bruce E. Mills, *Secret Place Editor*

Second class postage paid at St. Louis, Missouri, and at additional mailing offices. All books and printed matter referred to in *Hearthstone* may be ordered from either publishing house. All prices are subject to change without notice.

The Scripture quotations are from the Revised Standard Version of the Holy Bible, copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A., 1946, 1952. Used by permission.

Price, 25 cents per single copy; five or more copies to one address, 20 cents each (60 cents per quarter); single subscription, \$3.00 per year. Foreign postage, except Mexico and Canada, 50 cents additional.

Copyright 1961 by the Christian Board of Publication and the American Baptist Publication Society

Printed in St. Louis, Mo., U. S. A.



Family Worship Booklet. Readers will note that the Family Worship section begins on page 13 and continues through page 17. The children's story begins on page 18. The Editorial Committee suggests that parents might increase the use and effectiveness of this section by cutting pages 13 through 18 from the magazine each month. These may be incorporated into a "Family Worship Booklet." A Contents page, listing the month, year, and theme, might be added and kept up to date each month. This would provide a ready reference to various themes for worship for families with young children. The editors of *Hearthstone* would be interested in hearing from readers who care to share with us any photos of covers or novel ideas used in developing booklets from these pages.

Family Week. Perhaps your family is an old hand at observing Family Week. On the other hand, this might be the year for your family to initiate its very first observance of Family Week. Either way, your family will want to begin planning at an early date. Joseph Ray White provides some basic information to help you get started in his article "Are You Ready for Family Week?"

Adopted Children. For parents of adopted children, at last there is a writer who has an answer to the child's question, "Why Didn't My Mother Want Me?" (the article title). You can appreciate the way Jeanne Rousseau answers this emotion-packed question of the child who has the right to know.

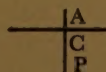


The Cover. The cover has that perfect springtime feeling—a boy and his dog—time—space—relaxation. We thank the artist, Art FitzSimmons, for its refreshing change of pace for our busy lives.

Coming Soon. "All Families of One Father" by Carol Albright; "God's World" by Lawrence Bixler; "When a Father Comes Home" by Mildred M. Merrifield; "Is Every Other Teen-ager Doing It?" by Elaine Holcomb; and others.

Until then,

R. C.



MYSELF AND OTHERS

by Wayne Clinton Clark

THE ABILITY TO GET ALONG WELL with others has become recognized as the most important single factor in the realization of success in life. People who fail in their occupational responsibilities usually do so not because they are deficient in skills but because they are unable to get along with others. The ability to get along with others rests not on a few sly rules of conduct and strategy. It rests rather on one's basic philosophy—in other words, on what one thinks of one's self, and, consequently, on what one thinks of others.

What You Think of Yourself

What *do* you think of yourself? What are you in your own eyes? Said the ten spies sent out to examine the land of Canaan, "We are not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we. . . . We seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them" (Num. 13:31-32). What those men were in their own eyes determined their failure to grasp God's opportunity and will for them. It also determined what those whom they considered to be their enemies, thought of them.

If in your own eyes you are a failure, you will encounter failure in almost every relationship of your life. If in your own eyes you are inferior, you are likely to fail. Furthermore, you will continuously and unconsciously resent and envy the successes of others. If in your own eyes you are evil

and sinful, you are likely to encounter continual frustration in every life-situation and see sin in all other persons. If in your own eyes you are the favored one before whom everyone should bow—and most especially your brothers and sisters and parents—you will meet with disillusionment as you try to relate to people. This was the key to Joseph's early, tragic relationships with his brothers (Gen. 37).

What you think of yourself is largely determined by what you have been *taught* to think of yourself, often from inference, by your parents or parent-persons. Without realizing they are doing so, parents often teach their children to despise and reject themselves. They teach them to take a low view of their abilities, and a distorted view of their sexual natures. By habitual correction, criticism, and scolding, a parent teaches a child that he probably never can do anything just right. So, he grows up expecting to fail to come up to the expectations others have for him. He becomes shy or overly aggressive.

Something of the same pattern is established by continual unfavorable comparison with one's brothers or sisters. A difference might be the added corrosive element of resentment and envy. Receiving continual abuse and intemperate corporal punishment, a child grows up with hostility and bitterness in his nature, and thus meets with unremitting failure in relating to others.

Many lives are impaired in effectiveness because of real or

fancied rejection in childhood. It is a fearsome thing for a child to *feel* he is unwanted. He grows up uncertain of his status anywhere in adult life and always in need of reassurance. Failure to discipline or control a child may be as disastrous in this direction as too much discipline is in another. Discipline of the right kind is an expression of true parental devotion.

On the other hand, if parents do everything for a child and expect nothing from him, if they come running at his every wail of distress, if they pamper and baby him far beyond the infancy years, they are bequeathing to society a potential misfit, a person who will vainly try to succeed on this basis in life and never quite understand the reason for his failures and misery.

What should you think of yourself? Think of yourself as a child of God, destined for adequate and constructive living. The scriptures tell us that God made man in his own image (Gen. 1:27) a little less than himself (Ps. 8:5), and that his destiny is to conquer the elements of this physical universe (Ps. 8:6). In this sense his capacity is unlimited. Man is to have profound respect for himself because he has infinite possibilities for grand and good living. Furthermore, he lives in a universe whose most significant interpretation and power is love. He lives in a friendly world. About him are the power and love of God (John 4:24; 1 John 4:8). There is a divine intent for his life. He is made for God and finds his full-

The author is minister of First Baptist Church, Canton, Ohio.

ness in that life-view. At the same moment he is not conceited. The fullness of God comes only to the humble heart (Matt. 18:4). He is not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think (Rom. 12:3). He realizes his divine nature, but he is not unduly exalted by it. He looks upon his body as the temple of God (1 Cor. 3:16) and all its functions as a part of God's thought.

Whence come these concepts? If they are to be determinative and dynamic they come from the teachings of the home—teachings made by inference and by precept. A child is taught by understanding, godly parents to regard himself in this manner. He is brought up to consider himself worthy of trust, worthy of God's love, worthy of success. He thus anticipates effectiveness in life relationships. His respect for himself and his healthy humility make it an actuality.

What You Think of Others

If a person is motivated by a healthy love—respect for himself—he will look upon others with healthy love and respect. In return, the fullness of life will turn to him. However, this is a dynamism, not a strategy. If a person's heart is filled with the love of God, he will not think of such a manner of life as a calculating strategy, and he will not enter into it for what there may be in it for him. If he does, cynicism is his destiny. The great commandment (Matt. 22:37-39) thrusts in three directions, not just two. It enjoins love for God, for one's fellowman, and one's self. Christian love for God expresses itself in love for one's neighbor and love for one's self. Love for God is dynamic. It is a power that draws men together in confidence. It is a power that integrates one's own warring nature.

A person who knows himself as a child of God looks upon others as children of God. He rejoices in their attainments. He feels sorrow in their failures. He lends a helping hand and has a heart of compassion (Luke 10:25-37), but at the same time, he is not a busy-

body or a professional do-gooder. He is outgoing and unselfish (Luke 6:38). It is realized that such a philosophy may sound "pollyannaish" and hopelessly optimistic. However, it is to be remembered that Christianity has not been tried and found wanting. It has only been found difficult and not tried! The philosophy awaits sincere application.

Can you imagine a world without God? without the concept of a God of love? without the concept of man's divine nature and destiny? Our concept of God—the ultimate Reality—determines what we think of ourselves, and this concept of ourselves determines what we think of others. This is dramatically illustrated by the pitiable, frightening sight of communism's Mr. K. who pounded crudely on his desk with a shoe during the 1960 sessions of the United Nations. For he, like others of his nature, does not recognize the law and mercy of God. "You do not live by the grace of God," he shouted. "You live by the grace of the Soviet Union!" He does not recognize the dignity of man. Man is only a tool of the state, and

✂ ✂ ✂ WILBUR ✂ ✂ ✂



"I hear you're leaving."

✂ ✂ ✂ ✂

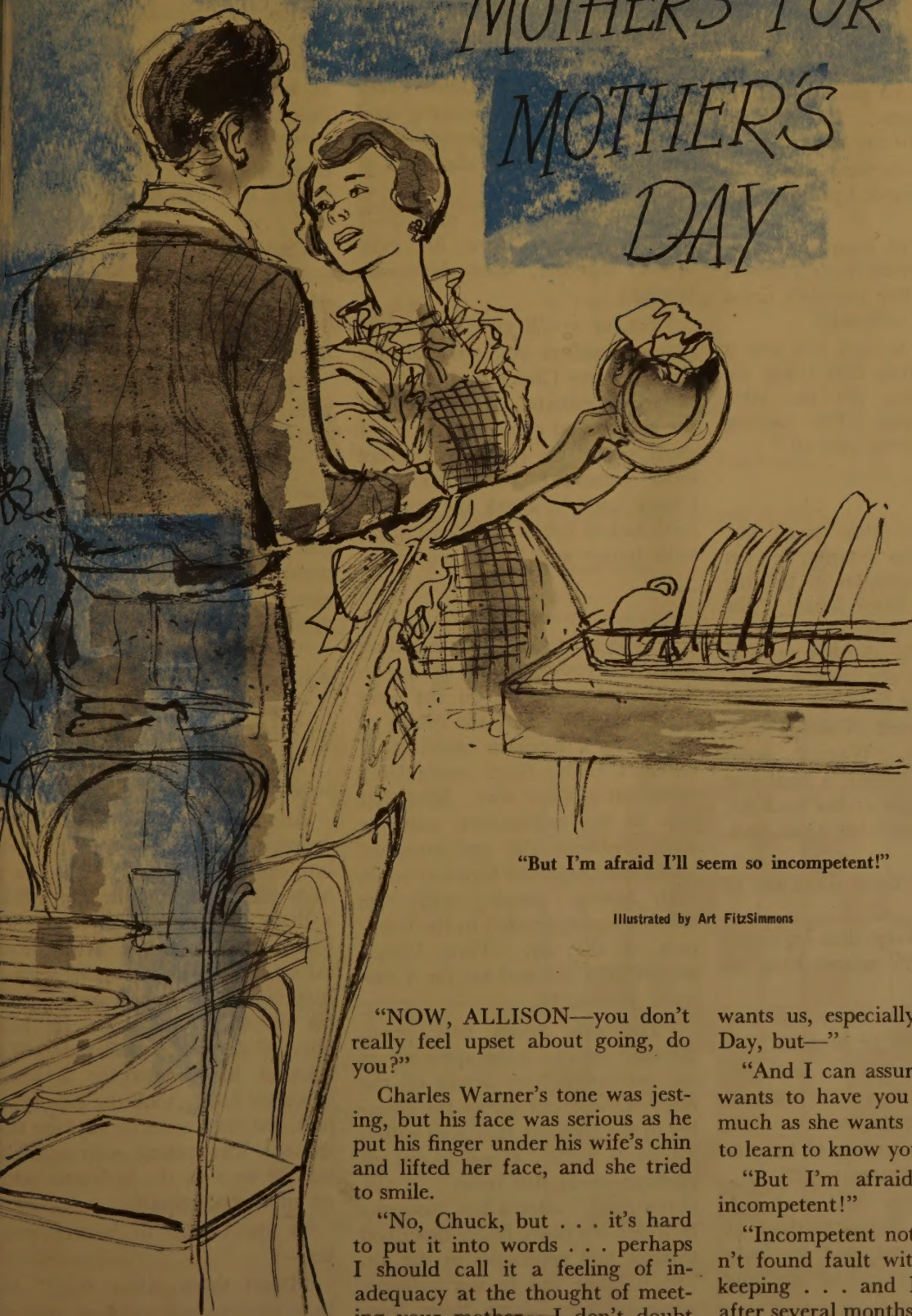
the "state" is too often a small group of unprincipled, unscrupulous men who would push a button and slaughter millions of human beings if they thought they could get away with it. What we think of ourselves and others and God has frightening overtones.

Furthermore, what we think of others is determined by what we have been taught to think of them by inference and precept in the home. Prejudice is a learned reaction. In the home we may be taught to be suspicious of others, their motives and intent. This criticism is not made to encourage gullibility. The Christian does not live with blinders, but knowing human nature he, at the same time, cherishes good will toward all kinds of people. The suspicious nature invariably encounters difficulties. Suspicion is linked with cynicism in the home situation. Parents infect their children with a cynical, hopeless attitude toward life by their own twisted philosophy. They may regard people simply as tools to be used in the climb toward "success." Or the children may be used as tools, to minister to the needs and whims of their parents. The home may also teach harmful false values of life. Money or social prestige, or material possessions and accouterments may forever be held up as the greatest good. Thus a man's worth is not determined by his nature but by his acquisitions; his sharpness in business dealings. The tendency to look down on others because they occupy a lower economic level or because they belong to a different nationality, race, or religion is caught in the home atmosphere. These are all negative and destructive attitudes and conducive to failure in the life situation. To relate to people successfully and healthfully one must cherish good will toward them.

What can one do to nullify harmful attitudes that have accrued through the years from the home atmosphere? This is the greatest problem of all—the rehabilitation of personality, its restructuring. Psychiatry grapples

(Continued on page 28)

MOTHERS FOR MOTHER'S DAY



"But I'm afraid I'll seem so incompetent!"

Illustrated by Art FitzSimmons

"NOW, ALLISON—you don't really feel upset about going, do you?"

Charles Warner's tone was jesting, but his face was serious as he put his finger under his wife's chin and lifted her face, and she tried to smile.

"No, Chuck, but . . . it's hard to put it into words . . . perhaps I should call it a feeling of inadequacy at the thought of meeting your mother. I don't doubt for one minute that she really

wants us, especially for Mother's Day, but—"

"And I can assure you that she wants to have you come, just as much as she wants me, and wants to learn to know you."

"But I'm afraid I'll seem so incompetent!"

"Incompetent nothing! I haven't found fault with your house-keeping . . . and I'm still living after several months of it."

(Continued on next page.)

"But there's a difference, Chuck," Allison's voice was almost a wail as she lifted her hands out of the dishwater and caught the drops in the towel he held. "She's lived out on the farm . . . she's baked and churned and sewed and run a big house—she must know how to do just everything, and all the housekeeping I've done is in a suite with packaged food and ready-mixes. I'll be so ashamed to show my ignorance."

"She'll love showing you—you won't feel criticized, I promise you that."

"I'm going, of course, Chuck. I do want to meet your folks—I was so sorry they couldn't come when we were married."

"Yes, Dad's broken hip was a bottleneck. Well, first thing tomorrow morning it's the view halloo and away. I'm looking forward to showing you off."

Two hundred miles away Mr. and Mrs. Charles Warner, Sr., sat finishing their supper, in the big kitchen of the farm home. The coolness of the mid-May evening was tempered by the fire purring and crackling in the kitchen range, under which the gray cat and her two kittens curled in sleepy contentment. Mr. Warner went slowly to pour himself a final cup of tea from the pot on the back lid, and his wife shook her head smilingly.

"You should have asked me to get that."

"I want to keep that leg exercised—although I admit it's a bit tired."

"This time tomorrow our boy and his bride will be with us."

Mrs. Warner gave a half-sigh as she spoke, and her husband looked at her questioningly.

"You aren't jealous of her for marrying Chuck, are you?"

"Of course not. It does change things, but I'm happy to think of his having a home, and she looks like a nice girl in the wedding pictures."

"Yes, though you can't tell too

much about how a person looks from pictures, and you've always held out against having one taken of you to send to them. The poor girl won't even know whether you have two or three ears, or have your nose on straight."

"Charles, don't be ridiculous! After all, I'm just a big country woman who's done almost every kind of chore and cooking and cleaning, and she's a city girl, born and bred. What will she think of me?"

"She'll accept you, or I'll—" Charles Warner drew his gray brows together, and his wife laughed.

"Yes, or you'll give her one of those spankings you were always going to give Chuck and canceled at the last minute. We must finish the chores and go to bed early. I want to be up early, and make fresh buns. I remember how Chuck used to sneak the ends of fresh-baked bread and load them with butter and brown sugar."

It was a bright sunny morning when the young couple set out in their station wagon on the long drive, lengthened by the giving of a ride to a business associate of Chuck's, taking them nearly forty miles out of their way. They left him at his destination, and for some distance the car hummed along level graveled highway while both young people, with the window open, reveled in the freshness of the air. Then Chuck stopped the car and sat for a moment in thought.

"The side roads look good, Allison. If my geography serves me, we could turn across on the next one and cut across the country to the highway that goes within a mile of home. It would cut off perhaps about five miles . . . yes, that's right," after a few moments in which his index finger described squares and rectangles in the air. "We'd come out to the highway again perhaps fifteen miles from home," and he set the car again

into motion.

There were some low spots in the side roads, but in the main they were in good condition, and at last Chuck pointed ahead.

"There, that moving speck is a car on the highway. Here's a bit of a muddy hole, but it doesn't look bad. If we get stuck we'll at least close to assistance, from that house. . . ."

"Chuck, there's a man coming down the lane. I wonder if the road is bad, and he wants to warn us."

Chuck negotiated the small mud-hole without difficulty and drew up at the foot of the lane. The young man hurried to them, his face worried.

"I wonder if you could give me a bit of help—I'm having some trouble."

"Why, sure," Chuck answered quickly. "What can we do?"

"My wife is sick . . . she didn't feel well last night, and then improved a bit, but about an hour ago . . . I'm afraid it might be appendicitis."

"Have you had the doctor?" Allison leaned forward.

"I have no phone, and I couldn't leave to go anywhere."

"Here, jump in and we'll go up to the house with you."

Allison swallowed hard to push down her dismay as they hurried into the small house. A baby in a high chair was crying lustily, while a little girl tried vainly to quiet him, and a small boy on the floor sat staring at the strangers, with a huge spoonful of jam halfway to his mouth, from a jar he had obviously misappropriated. He squared his mouth for a howl when his father took the jam from him, but then went on sucking the spoon. The young man quickly led the way to the bedroom with an apologetic remark.

"I don't like to bother you, but—"

"Don't think about that," Allison tried to reassure him, though she realized her voice was as un-

eady as she, herself, felt. The young woman in the bed was indisputably very ill. Allison stayed with her only a few minutes and then returned to the kitchen, the young husband close behind her, and in low voices they conferred.

"I'm afraid it is her appendix, Mr.—"

"Harris, Walter Harris."

"I remember my sister's case, and this looks the same. Can you get your doctor?"

"I can go for him now. I'd have gone before, but when I went out to the car it wouldn't start, and Clare panicked till I couldn't leave her, and with the children . . . but if you could stay I'll go

and phone."

Chuck spoke with quick decision, "I don't think that's the best answer—to wait for the doctor and then end by having to take her to the hospital. Allison, if you could stay with the children we could put a mattress in the station wagon and take her to town."

(Continued on page 28)

by Hilda E. Allen

bIBLEGRAM

Guess the words defined below and write them over their numbered dashes. Then transfer each letter to the correspondingly numbered square in the pattern. The solid squares indicate word endings.

Reading from left to right, you will find that the completed pattern will contain a selected quotation from the Bible.

A What a bald-headed man might wear -----	44 68 25 120 3 20
B Backward or slow student ----	32 119 17 101 43
C Slow outlet of a lake or river—in the south -----	8 122 23 108 51
D A set, as of rooms or furniture	91 15 114 96 36
E Stuff and nonsense -----	2 57 33 61 75 113
F Instrument played with a bow	115 48 30 4 38 98
G Place of residence -----	47 105 69 11 62
H A bridge of boats -----	88 45 95 71 5 14 49
I To make unclean -----	52 24 79 103 1 78
J A couch -----	83 74 87 111 63 21
K Eskimo sledge dog -----	37 109 70 19 55
L To spring suddenly upon ----	104 93 94 59 42 28
M Suffered pain -----	58 92 77 124 18
N Black or white curly-haired dog -----	22 118 56 7 29 50

O Quick-tempered -----	40 90 97 64 117
P Provoke or irritate -----	41 106 54 72 13
Q Take a long walk -----	27 67 35 102
R Sing softly -----	123 81 53 80 100
S Wives of noblemen -----	9 16 60 84 121 46
T Cordial, sincere. Also healthy	89 116 65 6 26 73
U Wander from the path of duty	12 76 31 99 107
V Lost color -----	85 34 112 10 82
W Toss or pitch -----	66 110 39 86

(Solution on page 30)

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10
11	12		13	14	15		16	17	18		19
20	21	22		23	24	25		26	27	28	
29	30	31	32		33	34	35	36		37	38
39		40	41	42	43		44	45		46	47
48	49	50		51	52	53	54		55	56	57
	58	59	60		61	62		63	64	65	66
67	68	69	70		71	72		73	74	75	
76	77	78		79	80	81	82		83	84	85
86		87	88		89	90	91		92	93	94
95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102		103	104	105
106		107	108	109		110	111	112		113	114
115	116		117	118	119		120	121	122	123	124



Are You Ready for Family Week?

by Joseph Ray White

In Planning for Family We

CHRISTIAN (NATIONAL) FAMILY WEEK this year is set for May 7-14. Are you going to be ready for Family Week?

Special weeks for special emphasis on special subjects are getting to be quite common nowadays—so much so that like everything else that grows common, the special emphases can easily be overlooked in an already overcrowded calendar. Everyone who has a family or who has grown up in one knows that the family calendar, of all calendars, represents a most crowded state of affairs. We need to get rid of some of the modern notions about what the family's function is. Some use home and family for little more than a "filling station" purpose. Home and family life is largely related to the eating routine where all the empty "tum-mies" are refilled on a reasonably dependable schedule. It's that "Hey, Mom, I'm home, what have you got to eat?" routine.

Some have said that today's home is hardly more than a bedroom where members of the family come to sleep at night, only to straggle out the next morning to a new day's merry-go-round of events that have very little relationship to any individual purpose or goal in life and absolutely no relationship to an "over-all" family goal. These somewhat exaggerated pictures of ways that some people view family life are not as far-fetched as they sound, as any family counselor knows.

Are you ready for Family Week? It seems to me that our question can best be answered if we ask ourselves at least three more questions! The first is: What is a mother's relationship to a Christian family? Second: What is a father's relationship? Finally, what is the relationship of children and relatives to a Christian family?

The author is minister of University Christian Church, San Diego, California.

What Is Mother's Part?

It is no accident that Christian Family Week ends with Mother's Day. The original planners of the week found this to be a most desirable time because the traditional "Mother's Day" celebration added weight and character to a Christian Family Week. It is true, is it not, that when one thinks of family one almost immediately thinks of Mother? One of the most helpful thoughts that can be expressed about a mother's relationship to a home and family comes out of a time of sorrow when a mother had been called to her eternal home. The thought which was expressed by a beloved minister at that time when it was most needed ran like this: "The condition that makes *home on earth* most like heaven is the *presence of a mother there*, and the condition that makes *heaven* most like *home* is the *presence of a mother there!*" Here it is almost implied that a home and a family are impossible without a mother's presence. With this implication, modified but little, I most heartily agree. A home and family without a Christian mother at the center are difficult to maintain. Our question, "Are you ready for Family Week?" becomes then, "Is Mother ready for Family Week?" Does it mean anything to her? Is there some new family experience or function she wishes to have the family consider, perhaps adopt? Is she at home at all? Some mothers are so often away from home that their functions as mothers are seriously impaired. This does not always mean that Mother is working. Some women do so many community activities that the husband and children are victims of neglect. If Mother is not interested in having a significant Family Week, the whole plan will likely fail.

Father Has a Place, Too!

Let's move on then to the man of the house. Today's children oftentimes need more fathering

than they get. The fault sometimes lies with the father, sometimes with the mother, sometimes with the child. Dad's schedule for family affairs and special observances is more limited than Mother's. He has "overtime" work to distract him. He has the pressures of business that oftentimes will not let him go. Whatever the cause, he usually is not as free to spend time with the family as Mother is. If it is his disposition in the face of these and other facts to turn over the "Christian Family job" or the observance of Christian Family Week to his wife, then the effective observance of the week is in danger once more.

Whether or not you, as a family, are ready for Family Week will depend in a large degree upon the father's attitude.

The Children's Part

In the last place, do the children really want to set aside a week for the special observance of family things? This depends entirely upon the attitudes of both parents, and the age of the children when the observance first starts. If the children are full grown before the family tries a week of special observance, any success is much more doubtful than if families start doing these family things while young.

From the earliest days of infancy in the lives of all three children of one family, a Christmas Family service was held. It was first sponsored and directed by *both parents*. In later years, as each child grew older, it was sponsored by the children in turn. The demand for its continuance soon passed from the parents' wishes to demands by the children that it be continued. So with Family Week observances!

If your church is making suggestions to you on ways to observe Family Week, the first thing you must do to get ready is to begin! Decide to observe it. Get common consent from all other members of the family. Then give it

a real honest try. When a person realizes that the most effective Christian education for children is not done in our church schools (however fine they are) but in our Christian homes, one can see reasons for being more anxious to observe Christian Family Week. Here are six things that can happen in your family that are new and vital if you are ready to observe Christian Family Week.

1) You can turn the "filling station" "bedroom" type of family experience to a close-knit family fellowship of benefit to each individual in the family.

2) You can learn to treat each other in the family at least as well as you treat your best friends. (Sometimes friends get more love and consideration than close family members.)

3) Your family can learn to play together. (Turn off that TV for an evening. Pop corn and plan a real family party.)

4) Your family can learn to pray together. (The family that prays together stays together.)

5) Your family can learn the joys of attending worship together with planned purposes for attending! (Learn to give or bring something to the service of worship as well as take from it.)

6) You can learn how to include Jesus as a member in your family. We often say he is the "unseen guest at every meal" and "the silent listener to every conversation," but is he really? Do you crowd Christ out of your daily family schedule almost as readily as you crowd out family devotions?

Take these six goals or any other six that are like unto them and set them up as your goals for Family Week this year and *your* family will not only be ready for Family Week—*your* family will experience "grace" and "growth," unbounded!¹

¹One resource book that can be used in all Christian families during Christian Family Week and all year round is entitled *Beatitudes for the Family* by Leland Foster Wood.



—Max Tarpe

Looking ahead—for a college education for your son? What happens to such plans if the father should die?

Lookin

by
Lester E.
Paul

ACCORDING TO MORTALITY TABLES recently developed by life insurance companies, men of our time have a much better chance to live out normal life spans than did men of comparable age who lived at the beginning of the century. This means that a man and a woman in our day can, on the average, begin marriage with much greater assurance of long lives together. Average improved mortality, however, is small comfort for the wife and children who are "left suddenly alone in a world of uncertainty." Advance planning can remove some of the "uncertainty."

— I —

Some of the planning ought to be financial. The best results from such advance financial planning will be secured when husband and wife willingly join in the venture.

The first question to be answered is this: "What regular monthly income would my family need if I were no longer here?" The question should really be asked in two parts: First, "What income would my family need while the children are under eighteen?" Second, "What income would my wife need for as long as she lives?" Related questions would be these: "Would I expect my family's standard of living without me to be reasonably similar to the standard they now enjoy?" "Would I expect my wife to go to work

and leave the children in the care of someone else?"

Your aim in planning should be to determine as closely as possible just what provision you have already made and set it against the standards which you deem desirable. You are the best judge of the amount of regular income your family ought to have.

You will think first of *Social Security*. If you have children under eighteen the income could be as high as \$254.00. After your widow reaches the age of sixty-two, her benefit could be as much as \$95.00 per month under present conditions. The place to get authentic information is your Social Security Office.

A second source of income could be the *Pension Plan* at the place where you work. Some plans have benefits for the family of a deceased worker and some do not. Try to determine just what your family would receive, if anything, in case of your death.

A third source of income might be *property, securities, business interests, or other forms of savings*. Consultation with your attorney should help you to avoid pitfalls and undesirable consequences in this area. Your will should be drawn by your attorney, with plans for periodic review.

A fourth source of income is your *life insurance*. With life insurance, you can close the gap which in all likelihood exists between the provision which you have already made for your family and the provision which you would like to make for them.

One final word on the matter of income for your

The author is Vice-President, Presbyterian Ministers' Fund, Alison Building, Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia 3, Pennsylvania.

head—

for Your Family

It makes sense to plan—even for what will happen to the family after a death

family. Take a long look at your widow's later years. Money is frequently the only hope of independence in the years when social custom and perhaps failing physical resources would naturally tend to make a person dependent. You can provide this money best through life insurance which you buy early in life, to keep through your entire life.

The second question: "What happens to plans for a college education for my children if I die?" Determine what it would cost to send your children to college. Remember that opportunities for work may diminish with increasing college enrollments. Life insurance offers an answer. If you live, the cash values of your insurance will help pay expenses while your child is in college. If you die, the full amount is immediately payable, and your wife can keep it intact until the children need it for college.

The third important question: "Where will my family live?" Through the purchase of life insurance, it is in your power while you live to make sure that your fatherless family would have a home.

A fourth question: "What about money for emergency needs?" While you live, you could probably borrow money if your car suddenly needed expensive repairs. Credit might not be so readily extended to a widow with a family to rear. Your advance planning could very well include life insurance which would provide this emergency fund.

The fifth and last question we will raise here is:

"What are likely to be the immediate costs to my family at the time of my death?" On the average, the costs would be approximately one-half of an annual salary. In the whole area of financial planning, the services of a friendly life insurance agent can be of inestimable value.

— II —

While the financial aspects of long-range family planning are of first importance, there are other matters which merit at least some simple advance consideration.

Without becoming gloomy, a person ought to give a little advance thought to his own funeral arrangements. As one of my friends commented: "Everyone ought to make a few decisions before he departs."

You can buy your cemetery lot. You can decide on your funeral director.

You may prefer to be cremated. If so, you ought to make the fact known. You may want your ashes scattered over a certain piece of ground or body of water which you loved during life. Advance arrangements for such a disposal are sometimes necessary. A certain widow said: "Perhaps I am odd. I visited the crematory the other day where my husband's ashes are. My ashes will be placed beside his someday." She isn't at all odd. She is a thoughtful person who has made up her mind.

You may prefer that your friends not look upon you in death. The customs of your community, however, may call for a "viewing." You can direct that the "viewing" may be omitted. Your wife can explain to your friends that you preferred to have them remember you as one walking among them. At the funeral service your coffin may be closed. If you are content to let the customs of the community prevail at your funeral, even that knowledge will help when the time arrives.

You could let it be known that you want your minister called first as soon as you die, even before the funeral director is called. You may even want to go so far as to suggest some portions of scripture, or some poem, or some music to be used during your funeral or memorial service.

Flowers are glorified by our Savior: "Consider the lilies of the field . . . even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." They are a fine way of expressing devotion and esteem. Perhaps you have no objection to a great many flowers at a funeral, or perhaps you do object. If, by chance, you would rather have the money sent to your church for some practical use there, it is better that you make the decision.

You may also have some ideas about how much your funeral should cost. If you have left enough money to pay for it, there is no reason why it ought not to be about the way you want it. Many people buy more expensive automobiles than they really need, and more expensive houses than they really need. Why not a more expensive funeral than you really need, if that is what you want? If you have left nothing to pay for it, the likelihood is that it will cost

(Continued on page 30)



How to Keep Your Child Interested in Music

by Muriel
Lederer



Experts offer a new
formula for
keeping
enthusiasm
at a
high pitch



Precise timing and notation in even the simplest composition requires concentration. When the piece is mastered the child has a feeling of success that can come only from achieving something himself.

Photos
from
the
Author

"HOW MUCH LONGER, MOM?" Johnny called hopefully from his perch on the piano bench.

"You asked the same question one minute ago and you've still got thirty-seven minutes more to practice," Mother replied from her comfortable seat in the den, with a good book in hand.

"Aw, Mom," Johnny complained, "the boys need me to play second base. Can't I finish later?"

Finally, the sound of scales, played haltingly, came to Mother's ears.

Sounds familiar? Today, however, music education (like all other education) has gone "progressive." The days of interminable scales, set practice hours, and formal recitals are numbered. Music educators have revised standard teaching techniques to keep pace with the new theories practiced by teachers in our elementary and secondary schools. Today, music is being made fun by taking away the drudgery. The experts feel that a youngster makes more progress when his music is put on an informal basis.

A basic question of child psychology is: How do you interest a child in a worthwhile project and satisfy his own demands for enjoy-

ment and well-being without either spoiling or frustrating the individual? Music can be fun, interesting, and challenging—all at the same time. Properly studied, it can develop significant qualities of character and intellect, and be interesting enough to serve as an avocation throughout life.

The American Music Conference estimates that more than 8,000,000 U.S. children are now playing instruments and getting instrumental music instruction in public and parochial schools as well as with private teachers. About 350,000 more are added yearly.

What is the value of a musical education?

Despite all the other things people can do with their time, things that take no effort, more people in America (28,500,000 in fact) play musical instruments than ever before!

a) As an amateur musician you reap many physical benefits from your music-making. Rhythm and pleasurable emotions are stimulated by your music, thus increasing heart actions and proper breathing habits. You will develop better motor co-ordination, posture, precision, and rhythm with music-making.

b) Some educators feel strongly that musical activity for youngsters is an effective antidote for juvenile delinquency and lack of purpose. Hazel N. Morgan, associate professor of music education at Northwestern University's School of Music, feels that, "Music enhances a child's feeling of belonging. It gives him, among other things, an outlet for his emotions." Carl Gerardo, of Gerardo's Music Studio in Elizabeth, New Jersey, points out that as youngsters learn to appreciate music, they also acquire appreciation of other fine things in life—and music can be effective in curbing juvenile delinquency.

Psychologists have found that a musical child will exhibit poise and social adaptability. Achieving success in making music is invigorating to the growth of the child's

personality. He seems emotionally strong, secure, and confident.

c) Today we hear a great deal about the difficulty youngsters have with their studies and how many fail to learn to read, write, and spell correctly. The Purdue Opinion Panel of Purdue University says much of the trouble is caused by faulty study habits at home.

To help your youngster, here is a way recommended by many educators. Let music lessons pave the way toward success in all studies.

Reading music requires absolute concentration. You cannot read notes and let your mind wander. The fingers that touch keys or strings must have a clear message from the eyes and brain. There is no "almost right" in music. A

note that is not exact is clearly wrong. This habit of concentration, of complete devotion to the problem in front of the student, may be reflected in other studies.

The good habits of music study may carry over into the ability to concentrate on arithmetic and spelling lessons. Experts in the field of education are aware of this and point out that a high percentage of honor students also are music students.

It is a challenge to any healthy youngster to sit still for an hour and concentrate on learning something entirely new to him. It is also a reward he gives himself, for the music he makes is his own—his own achievement. As he masters a musical instrument, he knows the vital feeling of personal pride.

Band and orchestra practice sessions present an immediate air of friendliness. Frustration and personality problems are overcome when children take advantage of such group music programs. The mild boasting of achievements and good-humored jesting, typical of the fun of music, establish happy attitudes that carry over into other phases of school and home life.



You do a child a great benefit by letting him prove to himself that he can accomplish what he sets out to do, and you give him years of benefits and beauty by letting him prove he can play a musical instrument.

d) Educators have found that the creative qualities of music-making develop imagination, that the absolute character of musical notes develops discipline, and that the challenge music affords develops perseverance.

Thaddeus J. Lubera, assistant superintendent for the city of Chicago secondary schools, says, "More than any other art, music shapes life and personality. It teaches punctuality, teamwork, discipline, and co-operation."

The importance of musical training in producing good scholarship was revealed in a national survey that showed 90 per cent of all elementary school honor students played some kind of musical instrument.

Furthermore, psychologists point out that in this age of nervous tension, the individual needs sound recreational and leisure-time activities if he is to live healthfully and successfully.

Is your child one of the 8,000,000 American youngsters taking music lessons this year? If so, John C. Kendel, vice-president of the American Music Conference, suggests these eight vital points for you to keep in mind to insure that your child will be as enthusiastic about his music in six months as he is today.

1. Be attentive to your child's music.

The simplest way to encourage a beginner to practice is to be ready with a quick compliment. The sincere interest of both parents in a child's accomplishments, no matter how awkward or faltering, is vital.

"My, that sounded just beautiful," will bring a big, beaming smile of pride to a child's face. Recognition of his achievement is of major importance to the young amateur and he thrives on admiration. "Your interest in his efforts and appreciation of his results will

dispel the vision that haunts the reluctant child at the beginning of the hour—those sixty long, slow-moving minutes," says Mr. Kendel.

The mother of an eight-year-old piano student sat on the bench beside her and asked questions about signatures and notes. The practice, as such, was almost a total loss for that one day, but the little girl was bursting with pride.

"I'll show you more tomorrow, Mom," she promised loftily.

2. Encourage your child to learn as quickly as possible so his active mind won't become bored with technique.

3. Don't prescribe a set period of time for practicing.

If practice is a chore which must be accomplished at a certain time of day, it loses the glamour of being an inspirational and impulsive activity.

4. Shift the emphasis of musical instruction for your child to the project of learning music.

If your child's ego is not intimately involved in the learning process, discouragement can be avoided. Try not to overempha-



For You

To increase the use and effectiveness of the Family Worship section, cut out pages 13 through 18 and incorporate in a notebook of your choice. Add a contents page, listing the month, year, and theme, keeping it up to date with each month's addition. Result—you have a ready-made family worship booklet for handy reference and use.

size a degree of artistic perfection which the average child will never attain.

5. Point out the immediate rewards of music.

Let him perform when he is so inclined and let him join you and other adults in musicales. Don't expect him always to make music alone.

6. Don't replace your child's entire world with music.

His toys, his friends, the outdoors, books are also important to him. By slowly introducing music into his life from the beginning it will become a very important part of his life because he has chosen it. Music should be an additional benefit in a child's life; it must never be regarded as a substitute for other enjoyments.

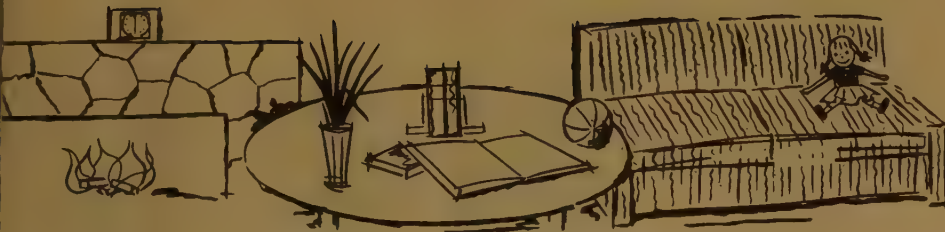
7. Show a love for music and make it have an everyday place in your home.

Your family's regard for music is important to the child. Children instinctively want to pattern themselves after Mother or Dad, and will want to play an instrument if one or both of the parents do. If music—listening to radio or records, singing around the piano in family groups, taking a ukulele to the beach—is part of family living, it will be an important part of the child's life, too.

8. Keep music fun for your child.

Robert Pace, Ed. D., head of piano instruction, Teacher's College, Columbia University, says that music does not have to be important or serious. Outside of concert halls and professionalism, music is fun. Music is to be played and play means fun. It may also be a means of service and helpfulness to others.

Mr. Kendel feels that children lose their enthusiasm for music when schedules, commands, restrictions, and penalties are entangled with the learning process. He suggests that you choose a music teacher who will teach a child to make music a wonderful experience, not one who will merely impose another form of "homework."



for parents

FAMILY WORSHIP

Establishing Patterns

Every family sooner or later begins to establish certain patterns for living. This may happen because of or in spite of planning, and applies to all areas of the life of the family. Perhaps the area of family worship is the most likely to become lost in the multitude of family activity. The busy-ness of today is not conducive to planned worship in the informal setting of the family. Because we so often think in terms of formal sitting-down and listening to Father or Mother leading the worship, we put off this kind of spiritual nurture until the desire for it may become lost entirely.

Worship in the family can be of two kinds: planned or formal worship at a certain time and place, and informal or spontaneous worship whenever or wherever the opportunity arises. The following pages of help are designed for both types of worship, and are to be used as guides. No doubt many other ideas will arise in the individual family which point the way to rich experiences of worship.

Developing Attitudes

Worship happens in the family only when it is felt important enough to set aside a time or to catch the opportunity as it arises. The attitude toward worship is caught, not taught, from the parents. If it is made pertinent to the needs and interests of the children, they will like to participate and will look forward to each worship experience.

If what we say and do as we worship is natural rather than stilted, if it helps to make the day ahead more worthwhile, then the family will miss it if it is omitted.

Worship, then, must be important; we must like to participate in it, and it must help us in all areas of our daily living.

Perhaps the most important attitude toward worship is the place God has in the family. If God is remote and inaccessible, worship loses its effectiveness. If God is thought of with praise and thanksgiving, if he is One on whom the family depends, and if parents are on conversational terms with God, then worship will become an integral part of the life of the family.

Using Opportunities

Depending upon the patterns the family has established and the attitudes they have developed, the opportunities for worship experiences are unlimited. There is the daily time when the family is together to share experiences and to unite in prayer. There are the individual bedtime sharings of confidences and needs. Daily happenings which involve the family as a whole, or as individuals, offer avenues of worship as happy times are shared with God or as guidance is asked for something that must be done. Special activities such as holidays, anniversaries, family outings, or fun within the home, are filled with opportunities for members of the family to share with God their thanks and their thoughts.

Using Materials

Many are the sources of material for helping to guide the family in its worship. Your minister will suggest books for guidance. Magazines such as this one are planned to help parents. All one has to do is to keep an eye out for opportunity and material around us.

The Bible is our best resource for worship. We do not read it enough with our families. The psalms suggested on page 16 should be used again and again until they become familiar and the favorites of the family. There is no more beautiful literature than that found in our Bible. Read the story of the beginning of the world as depicted in the first chapter of Genesis and see how your children respond to its beauty. The Sermon on the Mount has all that your children need to equip them for life. How often do you read it? Every child's bookshelf should have a copy of good Bible stories to be read as often as *Winnie-the-Pooh* or *Doctor Doolittle*.

Resource materials for use in worship are on the next four pages. Some of the stories are suitable for all ages. When that is the case, no age group is indicated. (K) indicates usability with preschoolers; (P), for children in grades one through three; (J), for those in grades four through six.

Unless otherwise noted, all the material on this and the next four pages is prepared by Mary C. Odell.

A Bible Verse

"The secret things belong to the LORD our God; but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children for ever."—Deuteronomy 29:29.

Prayer: Dear God, laws and rules help us know what to do. We are glad that you have some laws to help us know how to live and to act. Help us to keep them even when they are hard. Amen.

In the Temple

I wonder just what questions
Jesus asked upon that day
When he stayed within the temple
While his parents went their way
With others who had been there, too,
Until the feasting days were through.

Did he ask about some mysteries
He knew that God had planned?
Or ask about some Bible rule
He did not understand?
Or did he simply want to know
About his world of long ago?

I like this Bible story
For it helps me plainly see
That Jesus, too, was once a boy
With questions just like me.

—Mabel Niedermeyer McCaw

The Man of the Hour (P,J)

Today we take things very much for granted. We live in a land of plenty. We have little to fear. Consequently we give little of ourselves.

Think about Moses, who wrote the verse printed on this page. He was the one to whom God told what he expected of his people. Moses was to tell the people God's plans. Moses made it plain that what God said to him was not only for those who were listening to him then, but for all people in the future. That means us.

Think about some of the stories about Moses that you know. Tell the story of the time when Moses was a baby. Watch for the evidence that God needed this child for something special.

Again and again God told Moses, "I am the LORD your God." God gave Moses the courage to save his people from slavery. Read the thrilling story of the covenant, or agreement, between God and Moses. It is chapter 19 of the Book of Exodus. Or you may want to read the Ten Commandments, found in Exodus, chapter 20.

You probably know the Shema, found in Deuteronomy 6:4-5. It stated the basic belief of the ancient Hebrews, but it is our belief, too.

Moses was the man of the hour for the people of Israel. Read again the verse on this page. Do the words of Moses reveal some things to you that will belong to you forever?



A Day to Give Thanks (K,P)

The Nagy family had come to live in America. They always looked forward to Sunday. It was a day to give thanks to God and to share this feeling of thankfulness with others. On Monday as Mother Nagy washed and ironed the children's clothes she thought about what she had heard in church on Sunday. She put the clothes away in a special drawer to be ready for the next Sunday. She brushed Father Nagy's suit and hung it up ready for church.

"Oh," she would say, "it is so wonderful to be able to worship as a family the way we choose!" There was always a special prayer of thankfulness tucked away with those Sunday clothes.

Each week the Nagys shared their worship with someone else. One week Father Nagy invited a man from the factory where he worked to spend the weekend in the Nagy home. This man had lived all of his life in America. But on Sunday he did not go to church. Now the Nagys saw him every Sunday.

One week Mother Nagy invited two ladies who lived together down the street. They were lonely because they had no families. One enjoyed helping Mother Nagy get dinner. The other told lovely stories to the Nagy children. Going to church was better when you went as a family. Now one lady was teaching. Both sat in the pew with the Nagys.

Sometimes Marie and Ladyslas brought home children they knew who did not go to church. They would sit quietly with the Nagys. They would have Sunday dinner with them afterward. Often they brought their own parents to church later.

"Yes," thought Mother Nagy, as she tucked away the children's Sunday clothes for another week, "it is good to worship God as we choose. It is good to share our worship with someone else."

Not Too Little (K,P)

Billy sat on the porch step and watched his sister whizzing by on her roller skates. Down to the end of the street she went. She made a fast turn and came back again. She turned in and sat down on the bottom step beside Billy, all out of breath.

"Wish I could skate," said Billy.

Nancy opened her mouth to say, "You're too little." But before the words came she had an idea. "Maybe you're not," she said, unfastening her skates.

"Not what?" asked Billy.

"Not too little. You wait right here. I'll be back."

Nancy hurried inside and up the stairs to her room. She looked in the closet where she kept her old toys. She poked way back among her dolls. There they were, her first skates! Just the thing for Billy.

Her brother was sitting just where she had left him. His eyes lit up when he saw the skates in Nancy's hands. Very carefully Nancy strapped them onto Billy's shoes. She took his hands and showed him how to move his feet. Slowly she led him up and down until Billy learned how to move along beside her. She dropped his hand and skated backward so Billy could follow her.

As they went slowly past the house Nancy saw her mother watching them from the porch. "Look, Mother," she said. "Billy can skate."

As Billy took his eyes off his feet he suddenly came down hard. "See, Billy can skate," he laughed from where he sat.

Mother laughed, too. "Pick yourself up, Billy," she said. "You should make a good skater. You have a good teacher. Soon you will be skating as well as your sister."

—Eva Luoma Photos



A Bible Passage

One of the scribes . . . asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."—Mark 12:28-31.

Thankfulness

We sing a song of thankfulness,
Dear God, for all your loving care;
For homes and friends and families;
For so much beauty everywhere.
For roads to travel, broad and smooth,
For wonders spread from sea to sea;
For freedom in this land of ours
To choose our way to worship Thee.

We try to show our thankfulness
By following the Golden Rule;
By being courteous and kind
Upon the street, at home, at school;
By sharing freely, willingly,
With others who have less than we;
And living every joyous day
Our humble gratitude to Thee.

—Bertha C. Anderson¹

A Family Helps (P,J)

There are so many ways a family can help. They help one another. This is why God planned for people to live in families. Father helps by earning a living, doing heavy jobs around the home, and doing whatever he can to train the children. Mother is busy all day making a clean and happy home for her family. Boys and girls help each other, the older ones helping the younger ones. There are certain things children can do to help Father and Mother about the home.

Then the family helps others. When a neighbor is in need, the family helps. In many ways and places at home and throughout the world, the family helps by sharing what it has with people in need.

None of these things can be done without love. For love is necessary if we are to be helpful to others. This is what Jesus taught to everyone he met. It is the message he gave to his disciples to give to others. It is still the church's message.

Why not talk together about the way you show your love by helping? What do you do? What can you do as a family?

¹From *Juniors*, copyrighted, 1950, by The American Baptist Publication Society. Used by permission.

Theme: Worshiping God

A Bible Verse

Praise the LORD!

Sing to the LORD a new song.

—Psalm 149:1.

A Pear Tree

I like a pear tree in the Spring
All dressed in blossoms gay,
Which fall like snow upon the
ground
In the month of May.

I like a pear tree in the Fall
When harvesttime is here;
Its ripened, golden, juicy fruit
Will bring us Winter cheer.

I do not know the secret
By which it grows each day,
I only know that in His love
God planned for it this way.

—Mabel Niedermeyer McCaw

Read the Bible (J)

A family can have a rich experience by reading and thinking together about some of the psalms. The help contained in this part of our Bible should not be missed. Rather it should become so much a part of each of us that a psalm may be turned to or recalled at will whenever the need arises. The following are some of the ones a family may enjoy together:

Psalm 1 The Blessing of Goodness
Psalm 8 The Midnight Psalm
Psalm 19 The Sunrise Psalm
Psalm 23 The Shepherd's Psalm
Psalm 24 A Psalm of Right Living
Psalm 95:1-7A Psalm of Worship
Psalm 96 A Psalm of Praise
Psalm 100 A Thanksgiving Psalm
Psalm 121 God's Care of Us
Psalm 150 How to Praise God

The Time of Singing

As soon as Father came home at noon on Saturday, it was evident that he had some plans. His eyes sparkled, and he kept teasing Ronnie and Peggie all through lunch.

"All right," said Mother. "Now tell us the secret."

Father looked mysterious. "Oh no," he said. "Not until everyone helps do the dishes."

It was surprising how fast the dishes were washed, dried, and put away in the cupboard. Then Father said, "It is a beautiful spring day. Mr. Mills, at the office, invited us to go to his place in the country to hunt wild flowers in the woods."

"Oh, goody! We can use the flower book Grandmother gave me for Christmas," Peggie said.

It was a beautiful day, as Father had said. The sun shone with a promise of summer. The trees were beginning to show their tender green leaves. The earth was soft and springy underfoot.

They found violets, tiny fragrant white ones; shy yellow ones, and big, deep blue ones. There were bloodroots with tender juicy stems which stained their fingers. May apples were hiding their white cups under their green umbrellas. Dutchman's-breeches looked as though the fairies had hung out their wash to dry.

But it was when Mother discovered a perfect ring of dainty anemones that she motioned for each one to join hands around the circle. Quietly she said,

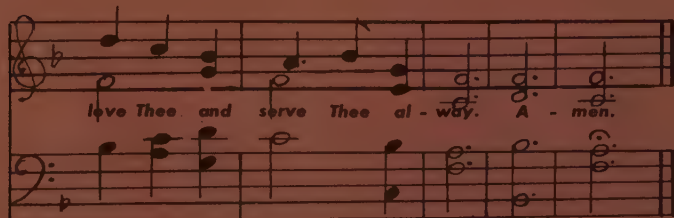
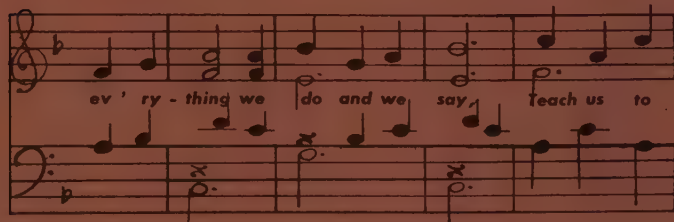
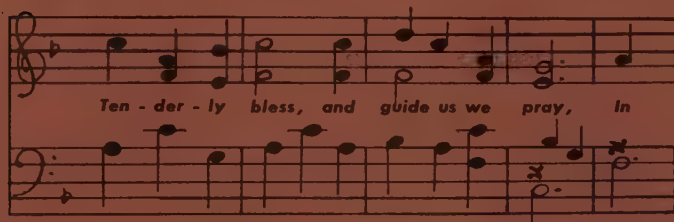
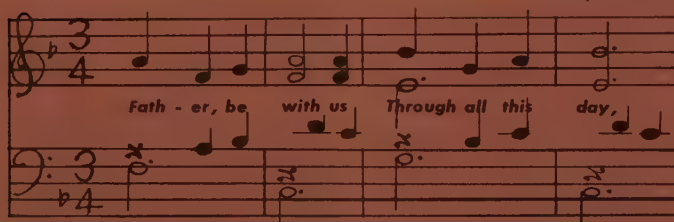
"For lo, the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth,
the time of singing has come."

(Song of Solomon 2:11-12.)

Father began to sing, "For the Beauty of the Earth." Peggie and Ronnie and Mother joined in. It was a moment they would never forget. It was like having God say, "Here is my beautiful earth. I made it for you to enjoy."

MORNING PRAYER

Mary Peacock



Baking Day

The back yard sand box was a noisy place. Mary Lou liked to play baking-day. But before she could get the sand into her baking dishes, her little brother would upset them. Mary Lou would tell Danny to stop. Then Danny would throw sand in Mary Lou's hair. This ended in more sand-throwing, noisy tears, and running to Mother.

"Danny spoils everything. He won't let my pies and cakes alone," sobbed Mary Lou. "Can't you keep Danny in the house?"

"Danny baker too," grinned her little brother, rubbing the sand out of his hair. "Danny make pies and cakes!"

"Now," said Mother, "it seems to me that the sand box is big enough for two little people to play without quarreling. Let's go see what we can do about it."

In the sand box all the pails and baking pans were on the side where Mary Lou had been playing. She began to fill them all up again.

"Which pans are for Danny?" asked Mother.

"He doesn't have any. They are all my pans," said Mary Lou.

"Hmm," Mother began, "I wonder what would happen if Danny's hands were busy baking with some of the pans."

Mary Lou looked doubtful.

"Suppose you divide with Danny and try it."

Mary Lou put one pail on Danny's side. She looked up at her mother who smiled approvingly. Then she put some of the pans in front of Danny. Danny looked surprised but began to fill the pail with sand.

Mother kept watching from the window after she had gone back into the house. There were no more tears and no more throwing of sand. Both children were busy until time for lunch.

When Mother called them they came hand in hand. "Danny baked pies," he said. "Danny baked a pie for Mary Lou."



—W. Henry Boller

Showing Love (P,J)

Love and service go together. When we love someone, we want to do something to show it.

Think of all the ways your parents show love for you. Mother keeps your home clean and attractive. She sees that your clothes are clean and ready to wear. She cooks good food.

Father works so that all of your family can have a home and all the other things that make life pleasant.

What is your responsibility for serving the members of your family? How do you show your love for them?

One family made a list like this:

Do chores without grumbling—do them with a smile

Take care of clothes and books and toys

Remember to plan and carry out surprises for members of the family

Think of all that others do for you. Express your thanks in a prayer of your own or use the one here: Dear God, thank you for the love others always show for me. Help me to show my love by my actions. Amen.

A Bible Verse

"As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."—Matthew 25:40.

Helping

I want to be a helper
So I'll watch in every way;
To see some helpful things to do,
Then do them every day.

When I have been a helper
I am happy all the day;
I'll do kind things for others
In a happy cheerful way.

—Jessie B. Carlson¹

Children's Friend

When Jesus walked in Nazareth,
And sat beside the sea
He said of little children,
"Let them come to me."

I know that Jesus loves me
And other children, too,
So I shall try to follow Him
In all I say and do.

—Florence Pedigo Jansson²

¹From *Home and Church Songs*. Copyright, 1958, by Christian Board of Publication. Used by permission.

²Reprinted from *Hearthstone*, copyrighted, April, 1953.

David and the Dark

by Enola Chamberlin

Illustrated
by
Winifred
Jewell



"David didn't mean to listen."

DAVID LOVED SECRETS. He loved to be told secrets. Like when Daddy told him about the new blanket he was getting Mother for her birthday. He liked to have secrets all to himself. Like where the mockingbird nested. Where she hatched out her blue, brown speckled eggs.

But David had one secret he didn't like at all. He was afraid of the dark. It was a secret to make him shudder. And he couldn't tell it to anyone. Not even to Mother who always listened to his troubles. He couldn't tell her even though he told all of his other secrets to her after he kept them for awhile.

He couldn't talk about his secret to God, either. Even though he felt God knew about it and was sorry. But there didn't seem to be anything he could do until he learned it wasn't a secret after all. Mother knew about it. And Father.

David didn't mean to listen. He couldn't help himself. He was lying on the couch in the living room when everyone thought he had gone to bed.

Mother and Father were sitting at the dining room table.

"Isn't there something we can do about David being so afraid of the dark?" Mother asked.

David was so startled he could have cried out. But he lay still. In his mind he could see Mother frowning a little the way she did when she was worried about him.

"I don't know," Father said. "He thinks no one knows about it. Since we can't say anything to him it is pretty hard to help him."

Mother sighed. "Maybe he will outgrow it," she said. "It would cause him shame if he knew we knew."

David felt his heart hammering within him. He felt sure that Mother and Father could hear it. He must get away so they wouldn't know that he had heard. He felt bad because he had made his folks feel bad. He couldn't make them feel worse by letting them find him here.

Quietly he eased himself off the couch. Quietly he tiptoed down the hall to his room. Quietly he got out of his clothes and slipped in between the sheets. He let his head sink back slowly onto the pillow.

It was then that he realized he had come down the hall in the dark. He had come into his room in the dark. And he hadn't been one bit afraid! He sat bolt upright in bed. Why hadn't he been afraid? he asked himself. Why, because he hadn't been thinking about the dark. He hadn't been thinking about being afraid. He had been thinking about his folks. He had been thinking about how bad they were feeling because he was afraid.

David jumped out of bed. He didn't care how much noise he made. He rushed into the dining room. He flung himself into Mother's arms.

"I know what to do about it now," he cried. "I won't always be afraid of the dark. I won't think about it." He stopped because he was out of breath.

Mother hugged him close. "You heard us talking," she said.

"Yes," David said. "I felt so bad I went down the dark hall. I went into my dark room and I wasn't afraid a bit. That was because I wasn't thinking about the dark. I wasn't thinking about being afraid. I was thinking about you and Dad."

Father clapped him on the shoulder. "You're a wise boy, David, and a brave one," he said. "It took courage for you to come out here and talk to us the way you are doing. No, you won't be afraid of the dark for long now. I'm proud of you."

David felt wonderful. Maybe he wouldn't get over being afraid of the dark all at once. But since Mother and Father knew his secret and were on his side, he couldn't stay afraid long.

A little smile was on his freckled face as he hugged Mother and Father good night and went down the hall to his dark room. He said a good-night prayer. In it he thanked God that he wasn't going to be afraid any longer. He could talk to God about his secret now, so he knew everything would be all right.

The Christian Family

by Ruth C. McDowell

What makes a family Christian?

"Mommy," said my inquisitive four-year-old the other day, "are we Christian?"

Long after it had been answered, this question stuck in my mind. How can a child, or any of us, tell a Christian from a non-Christian? In what ways are Christian families different from non-Christian families? It seems that many of the "Christian" virtues have been taken over by all. Today most of us try to be "good" and "kind"; the highest form of approbation often is "She's *so* sweet," or "She does so much," two characteristics we might associate with Christians. Everyone we know gives money to good causes, belongs to worthy organizations, and works diligently for the Red Cross, retarded children, or the United Fund—all good, "charitable" groups. Almost all children in suburban communities go to Sunday church school. Moved by all the magazine discussions on how to have a happy marriage, and the child development articles or PTA talks on how to raise our children well, we all seek to be fair, calm, patient, and loving with our spouses and children. This is just what Jesus teaches. It seems, then, that Christians have no corner on doing good works, or on being good parents and trying to do what is right for their families.

Externally, it seems, too, that most of us are nominal Christians. In our neighborhood we all belong to some church, from Unitarian to Catholic, more or less often, and send our children to our Sunday church school. The few who do not belong to any church seem to be just as good, just as kind—sometimes even more so—as the rest of us who do attend church; often they will send their children to Sunday school even if they don't go themselves.

Pondering this, I thought, "If there is any real difference between Christians and non-Christians, it must be in the things people do alone, or in their families, which others are unaware of, or in a difference of belief, outlook, and faith. What does characterize Christians? What do Christian families do which others do not?"



—Religious News Service

The Christian family has a unique contribution to make in its concern for persons. Here natives learn to write at a Protestant mission school, supported by Christians, located in Papua, New Guinea.

After much reading and thought, these things stand out in my mind: Being a Christian is fundamentally a matter of belief. Christians believe in God and they believe in Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. They believe that God created the world, planned its laws, and planned, too, their own place and work in it. They have faith in God's goodness and wisdom. They try to follow the teachings of Jesus.

Beyond these basic beliefs, what ideally do Christian families do which other families do not? How do Christians behave toward each other? If my family is Christian, what do we do which is different from our neighbors who are not Christian?

1. Ideally, a pervading consciousness of God should underlie all we do and think. It should be with all family members throughout the day as they go about their work and should color everything they do and say. This will not always result in their being obviously and more outstandingly better than their fellows. The Christian is not necessarily better than others; but he realizes there is sin in the world, that we are all guilty of it, and therefore he can show greater understanding and loving help to others as they meet their problems. His knowledge of God and faith in him lead the Christian to a faith in other people, an underlying optimism about the world, and an acceptance of its events.

2. A natural result of this belief in God is worship of God, by members of the Christian family individually and together. This means that the family prays together. If this seems difficult to do, a beginning could be made by having grace at least one meal of the day. The family should read the Bible together, or a parent can read with each child alone, at some time during the day, or, better than not at all, or certain days of the week.

One way to help children develop Christian belief,

and a wonderful aid to family solidarity, is to follow family traditions about Christian festivals. If the family does not already have such traditions, they can be started. Is there one special thing your family does each year to celebrate Christmas in its very own way? Perhaps you might bake a birthday cake for the baby Jesus, or light a special Christmas candle each Christmas Eve as the father reads the Christmas story from the Bible. I'm sure you can think of many others. It is also worthwhile to try to develop such traditions about Easter, too, for it is one of the greatest Christian festivals.

Naturally the worship of the Christian family would include attending church together on Sunday, rather than just sending the children off to Sunday school. And the Christian family would contribute generously to its church.

3. The Christian family will feel a responsibility toward other people. The members of the family will feel a particular responsibility for helping other family members, but also will have a real concern for God's people everywhere, for they will know that God has no hands but theirs to do his work in the

world.

4. I think the Christian will have a different attitude toward work than many people do today. Instead of the prevailing cultural attitude that "least work is best work" Christians will regard work as "love made visible," the way Gibran does in *The Prophet*. Work will be accepted as an integral part of life, to be done with a will, joyfully, and to the best of one's ability. The Christian mother, instead of "hating housework," can well learn the joy of doing her work when she thinks of it not as drudgery, but as one of the most creative tasks in the world. With such an attitude, she can find new pleasures and beauties in her job. A Christian mother will instill in her daughters the respect for the ordinary household tasks which they deserve! For they form the background, indeed the backbone, of all our daily living.

5. The Christian will be conscious, I think, of discipline as part of daily life. The modern cult of happiness and ease for all has made many of us forget the value of discipline. Conscious self-discipline for ourselves, and consistent, loving, but effective discipline for our children, would be the goal of Christian parents. The more important of these, I think, is the parents' own self-discipline, for our chief influence on our children comes from our being the best we know how to be ourselves.

6. While everyone today talks about love—movies in the romantic or sexual sense, and psychologists as the most important factor in psychological life—the Christian knows that Jesus' teachings are our best textbook on love, and will refer to them often. The love of the Christian is not self-seeking or selfish but seeks the affirmation of every family member as an individual, a growing, maturing member of the Christian community. How many of us are really giving our own most loving, best self to our families? Or do we become so harried and burdened with committees, "activities"—church or otherwise—that we come home and take it all out on others there? Too many of us tend to become Mrs. Jellybys. Remember, she went off to Botriboolagha to save the poor heathen children from sin, and left her own husband and young ones unloved and unnurtured. Or perhaps it is that we "let down" too much with our families and are a little too relaxed with them. How many of us are very sweet, polite, and patient with everybody we meet outside the home, but return to the fold to nag at our husbands and snap at our children?

It is true, I think, that it sometimes seems harder to be Christian in our own homes than it does anywhere else. Christianity is caught, not taught, however, and if we want our children to have it we must practice it with all our might, with *all* that being Christian entails, in our own homes. The home is rightfully the center of Christian nurture. Children can better miss prayer on Sundays than prayer during the week, for the home is the right and natural place in which we begin to enter the kingdom of Heaven.

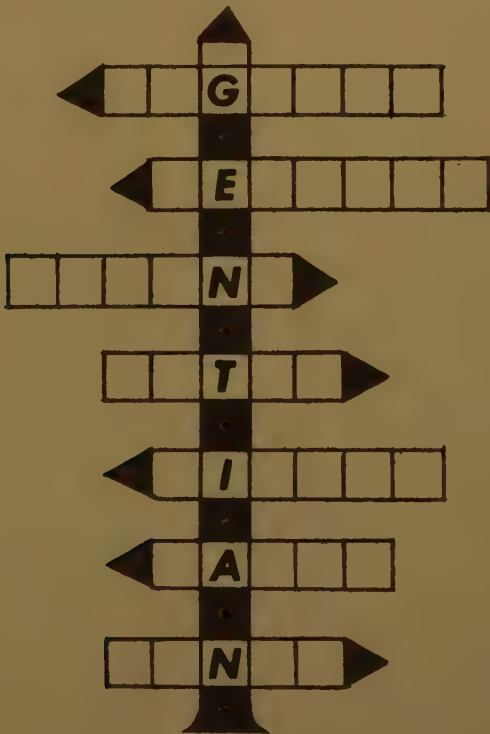


A Flower Game

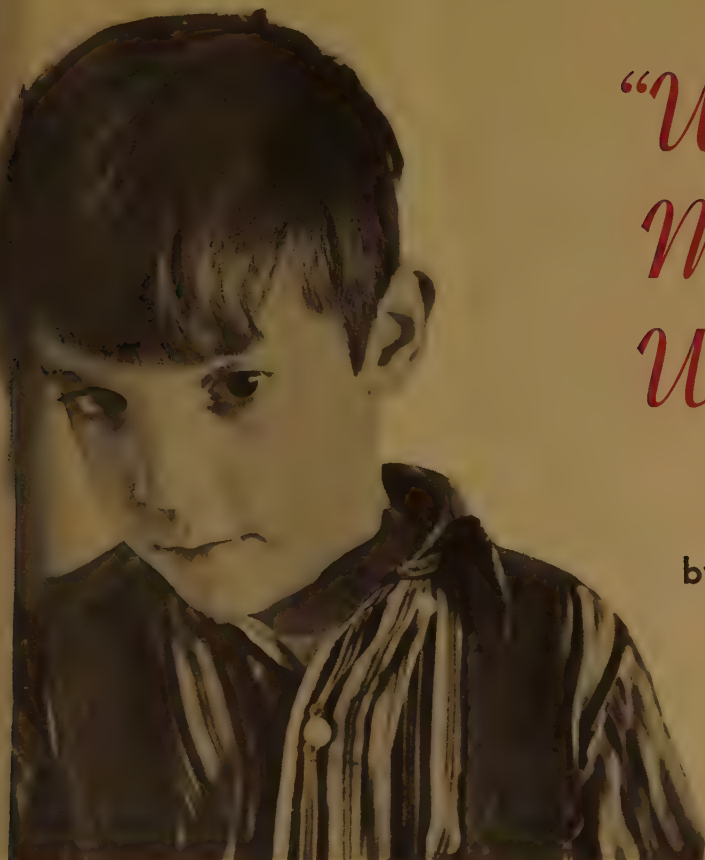
by

Melba Baehr

This signpost points the way to some old favorites. Fill in the missing letters and learn the names of the seven flowers in this garden.



Solution: Begonia; Petunia; Lupine; Aster; Violet; Daisy; Pansy



“Why Didn’t My Mother Want Me?”

by Jeanne Rousseau

An article for parents
of adopted children

David had been unusually quiet and thoughtful for some time. He played with his dog, patting its head, occasionally asking it some too-casual question concerning the arrival of a new baby in the neighborhood. Then he blurted out:

“Mommy, why didn’t my mother want me?”

“Your mother does want you, darling; wants you and loves you and Daddy more than any other persons in the world.”

“But I mean my *real* mother!”

“I am your *real* mother, David, even though Daddy and I adopted you.”

“But you didn’t go to the hospital and get me like Jerry’s mother did.”

“No, Son, but what do you think of when you think of the word, ‘Mother’?”

“Well . . . a lady who loves me and takes care of me, and . . . and . . . that I love too. And . . . and got me at the hospital.”

“Your mother and daddy love you and feed and clothe you. Did you know that many babies are not born in hospitals? In some places there are not enough doctors and there can be no hospitals. Then babies are born right at home! Some have even been born on the way to the hospital!”

“But didn’t my mother have me at a hospital?”

“I think so, dear.”

“Then if she was my *real* mother, why didn’t she keep me?”

“There are many things we do not understand, David, and that is one of those things. Sometimes mothers are not able because of health or money to keep their babies. Sometimes they cannot give their babies a daddy who will stay in the home and love and provide food and clothing for them. Sometimes the mother feels that since she has to work to make the living, the baby would have a happier life with someone else.”

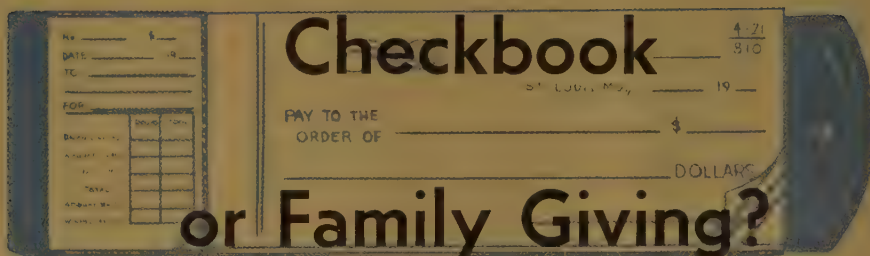
“But why did *my* mother give *me* away?”

“We do not know the answer to that question, dear. All that we know is that the adoption agency felt that Mother and Daddy would be the best parents for you. They checked family background, talents and abilities, and some things which we can discuss when you are older. Then they decided we would be the right parents for you.

“David, we talked a little while ago about *mothers*. You know, all animals, dogs, birds, and people have mothers. A bird’s mother feeds him, teaches him to hunt for food, and gives him shelter beside her own body. Sometimes there is a mother cat or a mother dog or even a mother cow who will not take care of her baby. If the baby is a calf, the farmer

(Continued on page 30)

by
Joyce
Knudsen



Young people can learn early that Christian giving
is a joyous, active experience.

WHEN FIRE ENGINES WAILED through the night recently, the Lawrence children shivered involuntarily. They heard the sirens stop a little distance away in town. Next morning they heard about the family who lost most of their belongings in a small but disastrous fire.

Mr. Lawrence was riffling through envelopes to be routinely mailed on his way to work. There was a small check in one—a contribution to a community drive. Last month there had been a similar routine contribution to another charitable fund. Wasn't it time for a different sort of family effort?

Turning back to the breakfast table, he suggested to the children that the burned-out family might be "adopted" for a little time. If the Lawrences couldn't afford substantial financial assistance, they could offer the personal touch of a helping hand.

The youngsters, eating a hearty breakfast in their own comfortable home, were delighted with the idea. Unconscious yet of the fact that much giving today must be of the impersonal kind, they still recognized instantly a project that gave active, imaginative minds a

scope for person-to-person help.

In the next two weeks they joined the families who provided clothing and an assortment of furniture for the redecorated house, and helped to obtain the dozens of little items a family-loses in a fire. Young John Lawrence called on a local merchant with a few school friends, and told of the news-carrier's bicycle still in good condition except for fire-damaged tires. The merchant donated a new set of tires.

Susie Lawrence went through her own belongings and helped contribute toys, books, and outgrown clothing. Some contributions meant a personal wrench, but for the first time in their young lives the Lawrences had close contact with the need for help, and the tingling thrill of being able to provide a little of it.

Today's community chests and organized drives do priceless work in seeing that charitable efforts do not overlap, that effort is not misplaced, and that the greatest good is done in the most efficient manner. Occasionally we question the disappearance of the warm personal effort that grandfather's family had the satisfaction of making when giving was a neighborly,

warmhearted affair.

Our own family found that tithing and financial contribution became an even more enriching satisfaction when they were combined with personal interest and effort.

Recently a ladies' church group planned a sewing bee in our home. Aprons and tablecloths produced during the evening were to raise funds to assist a league for the deaf-blind.

Our ten-year-old daughter was full of questions as scissors, material, and portable sewing machines were set up in the cleared living room. Admittedly, it took a little time to explain about the deaf-blind lady whose motto, "I'd rather walk in the dark silence with Christ than alone with sound and sight," had given her courage to pioneer a league for her deaf-blind comrades.

Immediately fired with a child's desire to help, Judy offered half a dozen bubbling suggestions as to how she might assist in raising funds. Far-fetched? Of course some of the suggestions were. She worked patiently that evening to make one apron. It later sold for fifty cents. Eventually she contributed over a dollar to the fund



—Photo from the Author

Children's contributions to any effort, usually unexpected, have a way of receiving warm official recognition. Judy was delighted when a typewritten letter, tapped by touch system, arrived from the deaf-blind director. The imaginative founder, herself a grandmother, enclosed cards showing the Braille code and alphabet so Judy could run her own fingers over the raised dots and gain first-hand contact with the experience of those who must see through their fingertips.

One of our neighbors is a member of the Women's Auxiliary at the local hospital. Each week she routinely gives two hours of her time to serve behind the counter of a little canteen on the ground floor of the hospital. Here, walking patients may buy toilet articles and magazines, and visitors may

purchase gifts.

Her children were curious about where mother spent Tuesday afternoons while they were at school. One Saturday she made time to take them to the little shop, explaining its use and the duties of volunteers. Children were not permitted in the hospital rooms, but she briefly told them of the room furnishings provided for the hospital by funds raised in the canteen.

A whole new avenue of thought was opened for the youngsters. Who paid for the canteen's stock? How was so much profit made? Their mother explained that some stock was bought from wholesalers but all the knitted baby clothes, little dressed dolls and handmade items sold to visitors were contributed by hard-working members of the Auxiliary.

From that Saturday, enthusiastic volunteer work for the hospital became a family project. The oldest daughter saved materials and painstakingly dressed a small doll. The other children collected little balls of wool from relatives and friends to assist volunteers in making knitted articles. Even the youngest was enchanted with the idea of being able to contribute a length of pastel "spool knitting" to make non-binding ties for a pair of baby's booties.

Giving, today, need not become an impersonal matter. Young people can learn early that Christian giving is a joyous active experience. Where there is love and imagination, there can also be the experience of one warm heart reaching out to another and the thrill of personal contact in giving a little of oneself.

1. What Do You Think of Yourself?

by Wayne Clinton Clark

Two meeting plans for parents' classes or discussion groups

Purpose of the Meeting

To examine our attitudes toward ourselves; to understand how attitudes are dynamic in interpersonal relationships; to ascertain the origin of such attitudes; to set up a Christian concept of self-regard; to study means of developing such a concept in dynamic functioning.

Suggestions to the Leader

Preparation for the meeting should begin no later than a week in advance. Assign the following topics to four individuals, each taking a different topic:

1. How My Opinion of Myself Determines My Success or Failure in Life
2. How I Have Come to Think of Myself As I Do
3. What I Should Think of Myself
4. How We May Build Healthy Opinions of Ourselves.

The material here and in the printed article "Myself and Others" is meant to be only suggestive. Further study should be made if your meeting is to be adequate. For additional preparation consult the following books: *Prayer and Personal Religion* by John B. Coburn, *The Secret of Radiant Life* by W. E. Sangster, *Prayer Can Change Your*

Life by William R. Parker and Elaine St. Johns. These are all of the highest quality and worthy of a permanent place in your personal library. They may be secured by writing to your denominational publishing house.

Each individual making a presentation should bring in personal material insofar as is possible. This is important. Please do not overlook it. These sessions will be vital only from careful thought and thorough preparation.

Following each person's presentation, allow adequate time for discussion, using questions indicated below. Make certain each leader understands all terms employed in the printed material.

Getting Under Way

To open your meeting employ a devotional period of not less than ten minutes. The hymn "Take Time to Be Holy," No. 346,¹ may be advantageously used. For the scripture reading, you may use Psalm 8 and Genesis 1:26-31. At the conclusion of the reading, you may make a brief commentary on the salient teachings of the passage as they relate to the stature and nature of man. Do not become involved in how God made man. It would be immaterial and digressive. This should be followed by

a sincere prayer, seeking the guidance of the Spirit in the conduct of the session.

Suggestions for Procedure

He who has the first topic will do well to elaborate in his remarks on the story of the spies related in Numbers 13, and the story of Joseph in Genesis 37, with a view to making a more thorough application than that in the article "Myself and Others." For discussion following the talk, this question may be used: Are these ideas true of me in my own experience? If so, why? If not, why?

In connection with the second talk, reference may be made to the story of Jacob and Esau (Gen. 25:19-34), and how parental attitudes affected the offspring. For discussion, this question might be used: Is this teaching always true? Explain your answer.

For the third talk, reference should be made to the scripture citations in the text, and development should be made of them. The question for discussion may be: What are other attributes of Christian self-evaluation?

Following the last talk, discussion should be on the question: In what ways can we build Christian self-evaluation in our homes? This is the most important question of all. Allow time to discuss it.

¹From *Christian Worship—A Hymnal*. Available from the joint publishers of this magazine.

2. What Do You Think of Others?

based on the article, "Myself and Others,"
page 1

Purpose of the Meeting

To see clearly how our evaluations of ourselves operate dynamically below the level of consciousness to influence our opinion of others; to realize how this affects our treatment of them; to visualize how home environment influences our opinion of others; to begin to see how these harmful attitudes may be corrected.

Suggestions to the Leader

Follow in general the same procedure indicated for session one. Topics for presentation may be:

1. How My Evaluation of Others Is Determined by My Opinion of Myself
2. What Happens When I Think of People As I Do
3. The Influences That Come Out of Our Homes That Prejudice Us
4. How We Can Reconstruct Our Lives.

For preparation beyond the material in the article "Myself and Others," use the books recommended in the meeting plan "What Do You Think of Yourself?" Make the presentations personal.

Getting Under Way

For the devotional period, you

may use the hymn "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind," No. 411,¹ and the scripture found in Matthew 22:37-39; Luke 10:25-37; 6:38. Otherwise, follow the suggestions indicated for the first meeting "What Do You Think of Yourself?"

Suggestions for Procedure

Questions for discussion follow each presentation may be:

1. In what sense is healthy love dynamic?
2. What is meant by the term "dynamic"?
3. How does one's opinion of himself affect his opinion of others?
4. What are other harmful influences that come out of homes you have been able to observe?
5. What can we begin to do now—in our homes, our fellowship, our church—to reconstruct our homes and lives in line with Christian concepts?

The last question listed is the most important question of all. Allow ample time for it and jot down conclusions on a chalkboard. Discuss follow-through ideas.

¹From *Christian Worship—A Hymnal*. Available from the joint publishers of this magazine.

The Wishing Book

By Julia R. Davis

DID YOU EVER RECEIVE A PRESENT that you didn't want from your husband or some other member of your family when there was something else you were longing to have which would not have cost as much?

It always seemed unappreciative to exchange the gift. Moreover, it was like taking the coward's way out to give money instead of taking the time to select a special gift.

My family fell victim to this kind of experience, for a long time, until I decided on a way to change it. Now, no one is ever disappointed in a present, for it is always something the recipient is happy to have.

I arranged what we call "Our Wishing Book." I bought a well-made composition book, and wrote the name of each member of our family at the top of a page. I left several additional pages, for room to list desirable things.

Now when birthdays, Christmas, Mother's Day, Father's Day, or any other gift-giving days arrive, we look in our wishing book, and armed with a knowledge of what is wanted, a mistake cannot be made. There are no more disappointments.

We have included the names of our near relatives in our list. Now when we hear one make a desire for something, we put it in our book, and are never at a loss to make a pleasing gift.



I. Financial Needs of the Fatherless Family

Purpose

To help parents achieve a better understanding of the major financial problems faced by a family which has lost its father by death, and to acquaint them with the sources of income which they will need to survive. To explore the methods by which the parents can make advance preparations to meet these needs.

Preparation for the Meeting

1. The leader should try to get a representative of the State Inheritance Tax Division of his state to be present at the meeting to speak about the events as their office sees them; events happening immediately after the death of the father in a family. He may explain what procedures are necessary in the settling of an estate. He may also tell one or two experiences of his which would throw light on the problems experienced by a widow who tries to keep her family together after the father and husband has died. Such a representative of the Inheritance Tax Division of your state could be the person in charge of this particular work in your county. You will probably be able to find his office listed in your telephone directory under the section listing the various branches of the state government in your county.

If such a state officer is not available, the leader should endeavor to get a life insurance man, or the trust officer of the local bank or trust company, or possibly a representative of your Social Security office to speak along similar lines.

2. The leader should investigate to see if by chance there might be some local organization devoted to the help and assistance of One-Parent Families. Organizations of this type are mentioned in the *Redbook* article for June, 1960, called "Till Death Do Us Part." Also, for example, in Philadelphia,

there is an organization called Single Parents Society, Inc. If there is such an organization in your area, they may have a speaker available who could tell you about the particular problems of a home in which there is only one parent. You might ask the speaker to concentrate on the financial problems of such families as the organization sees them.

3. If there are any widows (or widowers) with children, in your congregation, and if these persons seem to have made a satisfactory adjustment to their difficult role in life, the leader could invite two or three of them to the meeting, not as formal speakers, but as persons who could add something of real significance to the discussion, out of their own experience.

4. If the leader is successful in arranging for the two suggested speakers, he should let each know that the other will be there to take a formal part in the meeting. Also, the persons who will be attending the meeting should be encouraged to read as many of the articles listed as they can.

The Meeting

1. Have the representative of the state Inheritance Tax Division speak first—about ten minutes. Let it be known in advance that the second speaker will follow immediately with no discussion between.

2. If you are successful in getting a speaker from the One Parent Association, or similar group from your area, have this person speak for about ten minutes.

3. Follow with questions that the group may wish to address to the speakers and a discussion of questions given below.

Questions for Discussion

1. What are some of the costs which a family might incur upon the death of

the father, which would have to be met quite soon after his death?

2. What would be the probable costs of a college education for a child, and approximately how much of this could be met through work on the part of the child?

3. How much of your family's current income is consumed by the father himself? That is, how much of what he earns is necessary for his own running expenses?

4. Is there any discrepancy between the exercise of foresight and planning, and Christian faith in the goodness of God?

Worship Suggestions

Have one of the men read the passage—Matthew 6:19-34—which may seem at first to be contrary to the spirit of the meeting. Explain that the words "take no thought" (KJV) have in them the quality of anxiety and worry. Thinking ahead and doing what we are able to do removes a cause of anxiety.

Pray for all persons who have experienced the loneliness of separation from husband or wife, and for children who may be missing a part of the guidance which they should have.

Pray for wisdom and deepened faith and reliance upon God.

Resources

BOOK

Your Family Without You, by N. R. Caine, Crown Publishers, Inc., New York, 1957, \$3.95.

FILMS

Measure of a Man, 16 mm sound, 27½ minutes, free from Modern Talking Picture Service, 3 East 54th Street, New York 22, N. Y.

Looking Ahead (a Social Security film)
(Continued on page 30)

II. Funerals and Memorials

y Lester E. Paul

urpose

To help the group to try to understand the Christian significance of the funeral. Also to highlight some of the specific decisions that can be made in advance of the time of death, thus insuring that our particular desires may be carried out, and also relieving the surviving spouse of the necessity of making decisions at a time when even a thoroughly Christian person will probably be upset, and possibly not thinking at her best. The purpose is also to explore, for those who may be thinking of establishing such memorials, the needs of the church for articles or equipment which would make good memorial gifts.

Suggestions for Preparation

1. The leader should have one of the men who will be present at the meeting read in advance the accounts of the funeral of John Foster Dulles, former Secretary of State of the United States, as they appeared in the *U. S. News and World Report* for June 8, 1959, on pages 38-41; and in *Life Magazine* for June 8, 1959, on pages 28-33. The purpose of this preparation will be to initiate a discussion on the honors which we show to persons who die.

2. The leader should make a list, or have someone else compile the list, as complete as possible, of all the memorials which have been presented to the church, together with the names of the donors and the names of the persons commemorated by the gifts. This may require a considerable amount of time, since such a list may never have been compiled. The list, following your meeting, would make a worthwhile addition to your church records.

3. The persons who are going to be present at the meeting should be encouraged to read as many of the references as they can. Also, to observe carefully all of the arrangements, the reactions of people, and the service, itself, of any funerals which they may

have occasion to attend before the meeting at which this topic will be considered. Moreover, they might be encouraged to enter into discussions of funerals and memorials as the occasions arise before the meeting.

The Meeting

As a basis for the discussion of the topic of the evening, have the man who read the accounts of the funeral of John Foster Dulles tell briefly about that funeral, and have him refer especially to the comments of the various notable people from all over the world who attended the funeral. Notice how even some of the enemies of our former Secretary of State during his lifetime, had something good to say about him on the occasion of his death. This funeral started out to be a very simple funeral, but developed into one to which people came from all over the world, because they wanted to show honor to a man whom all recognized as a good man.

Follow with the following questions for discussion:

1. Does this suggest to us that when one of our own family dies, there might be friends or acquaintances of his who would really want to honor him by attending a formal funeral service? Do we, because we happen to be members of the family of the deceased person, have the right to deny this right of honoring our relative to those who knew him and respected him? Is there something unfriendly about the "private" funeral?

2. When should funeral services be held in funeral homes, and when should they be held in church?

3. What is your feeling about a sermon or a funeral address as a part of the funeral service? Do you like a service which is all scripture passages and prayer? What about a brief résumé of the life of the deceased person?

4. Is it possible to think of anyone

merely as a "spirit"? Does this suggest anything about the life hereafter?

5. Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:26 refers to death as "the last enemy." From your own observations would you say that death is always undesirable?

6. What are some of the things we can settle in advance of death about our own funeral arrangements?

Have the person who compiled the list of memorials read the list. Does anyone have a suggestion about possible needs of the church which could be met through memorial gifts?

Worship Suggestions

At the close of the meeting have one of the women present read from the Gospel of John, Chapter 19, verses 38-42, and then read the hymn "For All the Saints, Who From Their Labors Rest," No. 576.¹ The worship leader, then, can ask for a few seconds of quiet during which thought can be given to persons whom we have known and who are no longer with us. This could be followed by a closing prayer or benediction.

Resources

THE BIBLE

Matthew 27:45—28:20; Mark 15:33—16:20; Luke 23:44—24:53; John 19:28—20:31; 1 Corinthians 15.

BOOKLET

Why Mankind Is Returning to Cremation by Sheba Hargreaves, available free of charge from West Laurel Hill Cemetery Company, 215 Belmont Avenue, Bala-Cynwyd, Pennsylvania.

PERIODICALS

"Why Shouldn't Funerals Change?" *Farm Journal*, September, 1959.

"The Banal and Costly Funeral," *The Humanist*, July-August, 1960.

"Let's Be Sensible About Funerals," *Church Management*, January, 1960.

¹From *Christian Worship—A Hymnal*. Available from the joint publishers of this magazine.



◆ Mothers for Mother's Day

(Continued from page 5)

Following a brief flurry of preparations the station wagon moved down the lane to the road and away. Allison turned to look at the children, sorely doubting her ability to handle this situation. The baby was still crying and the little boy showed unmistakable signs of joining him soon, while the girl stood with a quivering lip, and tears slipping down her cheeks. Allison took her hand.

"Carol—that's your name, isn't it?—will you help me while your Mamma is away to where the doctor will take care of her?"

The child nodded dumbly and then answered a little above a whisper, as Allison asked the names of her two little brothers.

"He's Jimmy and the baby's Teddy. I think maybe he's hungry, for Daddy didn't have time to give him his bottle when he saw your car."

At first Teddy would have none of this new routine and kicked and screamed, but at last hunger intervened and he yielded to Allison's holding him and finally fell asleep. Carol did her best to help, her shyness gradually disappearing, and the desire for food also overcame Jimmy's resentment of life. Allison tried to tidy the kitchen which was clean but disordered. She had never before dealt with a coal-burning range, but felt a sense of real achievement when the kettle began to send up a spiral of steam and she poured the hot water over the heaping panful of dishes. Carol came with the dish towel, but Allison took it from her.

"Carol dear, I'd like you to lie down and rest, over there on the couch. Your Daddy is going to try to get someone to help, but right now you look so tired," and the child obeyed very willingly.

Time went on, and Allison began to grow uneasy. Nearly two hours had passed . . . what would the little boys do when they waked? . . . Then, just as Jimmy appeared in the bedroom door, staring at her while his lower lip drooped threateningly, there was the welcome hum of a car near at hand, and in a few minutes it stopped at the door.

It was an old model, and obviously had seen many years of use and several home paintings, a far cry from their new, bright station wagon, but Allison had a fleeting rueful thought that it looked even better to her, and she felt her worry lifting away at the sight of a tall, stout woman who got out and hurried to the door. Allison met her there, but then turned back at the sound of a lusty roar that gave warning Teddy was again conscious of his surroundings.

"I'm sorry I couldn't get here sooner," the newcomer did not lose any time in greetings or introductions. "Larry Holton, down at the filling station, phoned

to see if I could come—his wife is away, but I looked after their youngsters last winter while she was sick. Come along then, young funny-bun . . . you don't need to pull a face like that at me! I don't wonder things are in a pucker-snatch, with his wife sick and that young chap trying to care for everything. Larry told me when I called there just now that she surely looked ill."

There was no doubting the competence of the big woman and Jimmy's vigorous expressions of outrage were ended abruptly by the light but unexpected application of a large hand in a customary area, and there was a note of satisfaction in the woman's voice as his roars ceased and she picked him up.

"They're well-brought-up children—he knows that nonsense won't be tolerated, but the poor little chap is bewildered."

Some degree of peace and organization was soon restored to the pitifully disturbed little home, and then the newcomer looked about her.

"I think I'll take the children with me, if he'll agree," a pillow was being vigorously shaken. "He'll be free then to go back and forth to see his wife."

"It's wonderful of you to do this on a moment's notice."

"I had some other plans, but nothing that I couldn't change quickly. I don't want to be away from home too long, for my husband isn't too well, but he said he could manage."

A pile of washing for the children was done and hung out, and only then did the two women sit down. Jimmy, after many sidling moves, leaned against the knee of his new friend, and climbed willingly to the welcoming arms, while Carol seemed happy to have Allison cuddle her for a few minutes. Then Carol said she heard a car coming and Allison, opposite the open door, exclaimed in happy relief:

"There's my husband now. He'll have some word of how Mrs. Harris is . . . he seems to be alone, so Mr. Harris must have stayed. Mrs. . . . well, of all things . . . I've just realized I don't know your name, and I haven't told you mine, through all the time we've been working together."

"I never thought of it either—I'm Mrs. Charles Warner."

"Why—that's my name," and sudden realization came. They were staring at each other when Chuck hurried in.

"Everything all right, Allison—I came back as fast as I . . ." and then his jaw sagged.

"Maw . . . what are you doing here?" and in a moment he wrapped both his mother and the surprised little boy in a hearty hug. Allison gulped and then began to laugh hysterically.

"Chuck—believe it or not, we've been working together, and only just found out. . . ."

"But . . . I don't get this."

"Now, I thought I'd raised a reasonably intelligent son," Mrs. Warner, Sr.'s voice was acid but her face was beaming. "I came and looked after Larry Holton's children last winter, so it was only natural for him to phone me to help out now," and Chuck threw his hat on the table and scratched his head.

"And I was looking forward to introducing the two women in my life."

"And life took affairs in its own hands," Allison finished. "Chuck, how is Mrs. Harris?"

"She's very ill. They were going to operate immediately . . . appendix, but we got there in time and the doctor thinks everything will go well. Walter stayed, of course. He phoned his sister, and she can come, but not for a couple of days. Do you think . . .?"

"This is a time for action, not for thinking," his mother's voice was brisk. "I'll take the children home with me and look after them till she can come. I'll be a temporary mother to them . . . I'll celebrate Mother's Day doing it."

Allison chimed in, with a happy laugh, "And I'll celebrate it too, by being an assistant mother . . . and learning to know my new mother."

◆ Myself and Others

(Continued from page 2)

with the problem continuously. Difficulty is encountered if shock therapy and chemicals fail. It is believed that *spiritual* therapy must be employed, because in the last analysis man is more than body and mind. He is spirit, and his wholeness depends upon his relatedness in full stature to the source and origin of his being—God! This is the work of religion. By religion is meant the spiritual exercises and insights of self-examination and self-understanding, of prayer and meditation, of exposure and receptivity to the Spirit of God which is continually about us.

This is the healing Power of the universe. Religion is more than sterile respectability and legalism. It is even more than benevolent activism, although certainly it embraces this aspect. It is basically a vital and dynamic contact and relationship with God whereby one begins to understand the source of his problems and begins to gain the power whereby his inmost nature can be reconstructed. This is possible, but it involves our going far more deeply in the spiritual aspects of our religious heritage than we traditionally have in the past. The passage Matthew 5:43-48 contains more than a pious exhortation. It is a dynamic fact, capable of producing genuine changes in one's outlook on life, his attitude toward others, and his image of himself.

(See meeting plans on pages 24, 25)



family Counselor

Our daughter is breaking us up, sharing food with the neighborhood children—What can we do?

Q AMONG THE THINGS that children are taught at school and Sunday church school is the desirability of being generous and learning to share. The only thing to which my six-year-old daughter has applied this training is food.

Yesterday she invited three monstrous-eating brothers to stay for lunch. Today she offered a neighborhood youngster some dessert. This meant that I went without mine. In spite of countless patient explanations that I will treat her friends and playmates whenever I feel that I can; in spite of even a mild form of punishment, she will invite the entire neighborhood (consisting of twelve children under eight) to accompany us on a trip for ice-cream cones.

My daughter is a "problem" eater herself. She is never hungry at mealtime even though I do not give in to her continuous demands for treats for herself and friends during the between-meal intervals. Nothing that I have tried has stopped her from begging incessantly for these snacks. She always wants sweets or starches, never fruit or raw vegetables. Nothing that I have ever tried has been successful in interesting her in an attractive, well-balanced meal.

We find it necessary to plan and budget our food buying as well as everything else. I shop once a week for groceries and I am glad to plan for a few special treats for Margaret's friends.

A Let me suggest that you try to discover why it is that your daughter seems to get so much satisfaction

out of sharing food with her playmates. It may simply be the result of a generous disposition and if so all you need to be concerned about is to help her develop judgment as to when it is appropriate to invite her friends to a meal or on trips to the ice-cream parlor.

On the other hand, the generosity may reflect a general feeling of insecurity on her part when she is with her friends and playmates. If she is not very popular with them, or if they excel her in what they can do, the sharing of food may be her way of trying to get their approval.

Perhaps you need to help her in her friendships. Encourage her friends to visit in your home; have play equipment that is creative and that is appealing to boys and girls. Watch your daughter when she is playing with her friends to discover if she has any unfortunate habits that might make her unpopular, such habits as whining or always demanding that she have her own way. In other words, if you can help your daughter get along well with her friends she may not feel the need to purchase her popularity with food.

In the meantime, you may need to be a bit firmer than you have been in the past when she invites friends to share your food. Even though in the past she may not have heeded your explanation that you could not magically produce food and money, continue to explain carefully to her just what you can and

cannot do in this regard. She is getting older and one of these days she will catch the full import of what you are saying. Let her know that you appreciate her generous impulses—and are proud of them—but that the family budget places definite limitations upon what you can do.

Ask her if she would like to help you decide each week what to buy that might be used for special treats for her friends. If she helps in this decision and perhaps shops with you, she will know just what is available and when the treats are gone. Let it be understood that this is all the food that can be shared this week. Then when she forgets and perhaps invites children in for a meal, or to go with you for ice-cream cones, explain to them that it is not convenient for you to have them this time. Gradually, your daughter will come to understand that she must consult you before inviting the neighborhood in.

You are wise, of course, in not letting your daughter "fill up" on sweets between meals. I assume, however, that when she gets home from school in the afternoon you do let her have a light snack of a glass of milk and a cracker. This would seem to be desirable. Continue to provide attractive, well-balanced meals for her. Put small helpings on her plate—rather than large ones. Don't nag or scold her for not eating. If the problem persists, get the help of your physician.

Daniel M. Maynard

The Family Counselor is Head of the Department of Religious Education, Boston University, School of Theology.

◆ Looking Ahead—for Your Family

(Continued from page 9)

the minimum amount. The shame of a needlessly expensive funeral lies in the fact that a widow may have deprived herself of needed money just for the sake of appearances. Sometimes, though, there is a deep-seated and inexplicable love of a woman for a man whose visible remains she wants to honor in this final manner—much as the woman poured out her alabaster box of precious ointment on the head of her Lord. Who can say that this expression of her utter necessity is an utter waste?

— III —

Your family planning may also include the kind of memorials which you may wish to establish. Many of us will have no memorials except the images we have created in the minds of loved ones and associates, the markers at our final resting place, and the permanent notation of our death in the records of the Bureau of Vital Statistics in our respective state capitols. The memories of us should be pleasant ones, and, if possible, inspiring and helpful—as the memory of a father who still counsels his son, though his body was buried some time ago.

Of necessity, the inscription on the urn which may contain your ashes would have to be brief. That on the memorial stone in a traditional cemetery could be longer, but the tendency here, too, is for the simple recording of the name, the year of birth and of death, with perhaps the words: "Husband," or "Wife." Your cemetery may have restrictions about the size or type of memorial.

You may, however, want to establish some further memorial: a scholarship bearing your name in your college; a trust bearing your name at your bank; a charitable "Foundation," bearing your name with the income from the investments supporting some worthy cause. Such memorials could be established during your lifetime or by your will.

The Joseph Eastburn Fund was established by will in 1828 by the Founder of the Mariners' Church in Philadelphia, and this church for seamen still receives some of its support from the income of the fund thus established. A minister the other day commented: "Church homes for the aged count heavily on legacies." The same may be said for church hospitals, and churches.

If you have made no advance provision for a memorial, your family may want to perpetuate your memory by a gift to your church. Such gifts need not require great wealth. The best procedure is to tell your pastor that you are thinking about a memorial gift and ask him for suggestions. Some generally acceptable and unostentatious memorials might be a few hymnbooks, an appropriate stand for a guest book, an outside bulletin board, or a communion service. A more expensive memorial might be an

organ, in which case it would be in order to provide a small endowment fund for its upkeep.

A sane look toward the end of our lives and at what may come after is one way to make life worth the living.

(See meeting plans on pages 26, 27)

◆ Why Didn't My Mother Want Me?

(Continued from page 21)

finds a new mother to care for it. It is that way with people sometimes. For reasons we do not understand, occasionally a mother does not want to keep her baby. She is called a 'biological' mother. This means that through her body, God breathed life to her new baby. (We will talk more about this another time, Son.) In only this *one* way is she a mother. She does not feed, clothe, shelter, or express loving care for the baby which she may have had in the hospital. Then she is not a *real* mother, but a 'biological' mother only.

"All animal babies and human babies are born to biological mothers and fathers because that is part of God's plan. Many of these animal babies and human babies have real mothers and fathers given to them because some biological parents are unable to provide for their children. Some men and women have found that they could not become biological parents. Many of these have prayed that God would send them a baby of their own. If he thinks it is best, he does! Your mother and daddy feel sure that God helped the case workers to select us for you. To us, you are the most wanted little boy in the world. That is the way all *real* parents feel about their own children whether they are biological parents or adoptive parents.

"You see, being born to Mother in a hospital really doesn't matter so much. It is just as wonderful receiving a call and going to the big house to get your baby. In a way, it is like a hospital. They put the baby in a bed in the nursery and you see it for the *first* time just as if you were seeing it for the first time in the hospital! There are baby bottles and diapers, powder and safety pins, and all those things the baby will need. The mother and father even take pretty clothes to bring the baby home in just like Terry's mother took with her to the hospital!"

Asking no further questions, David resumed his play in what seemed to be a more relaxed manner. His quietness gone, he roughhoused with the dog in the usual way and our conversation was apparently forgotten.

Hours later when bedtime came, David, clad in warm pajamas, eased my wondering heart when he climbed onto my lap and whispered: "Mommy, I love you! Mommy, I'm *glad* you didn't get me at the hospital. You have to be *QUIET* there!"

◆ I. Financial Needs of the Fatherless Family

(Continued from page 26)

14 minutes, consult your Social Security Office.

Sam'l and Social Security 16 mm sound, 14 minutes, consult your Social Security Office.

PERIODICALS

"What You Should Know About Life Insurance," *Parents Magazine*, September, 1959

"Estate Planning? Yes, You Too!" *Changing Times*, September, 1960

"Before You Write Your Will," *Changing Times*, May, 1959

"Does Your Family Know?" *Rotarian*, June, 1960

"The Trials of Cold War Widowhood," *Life Magazine*, August 1, 1960

"Till Death Do Us Part," *Redbook*, June, 1960

◆ Biblegram Solution

(Biblegram on page 5)

SOLUTION:

The LORD bless you and keep you:
The LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you:
The LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace" (Num. 6:24-26).

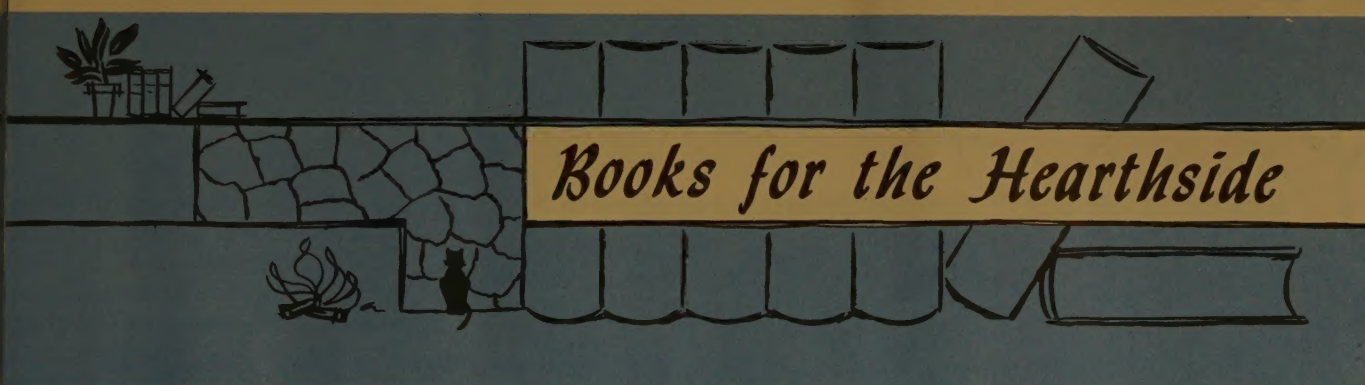
The Words

A Toupee	L Pounce
B Duncé	M Ached
C Bayou	N Poodle
D Suite	O Fiery
E Humbug	P Annoy
F Violin	Q Hike
G House	R Croon
H Pontoon	S Ladies
I Pollute	T Hearty
J Lounge	U Stray
K Husky	V Faded

W Cast



"I think I smashed the atom."



Books for the Hearthside

For Young People

Youngsters, ten to fourteen, will delight in the story of **Black Saddle in Sedge-Hill Setter** (Longmans, Green and Co., Inc., New York, 1960, 154 pages, \$2.95) by Tom Person, illustrated by E. Harper Johnson. The story takes place in sedge-hill country in Tennessee where the Tomlin dogs were known for their bird sense, stamina, and speed. Lee Langston is the lucky recipient of the last of the Tomlin dogs. Unfortunately for Lee, his mother is against bird dogs and guns. Just how to make her change her mind when her own brother lost his eyesight because of a stray bullet becomes quite a task. Then too, Black Saddle is a true Tomlin dog—hardheaded and with spirit. Lee has quite a time with the dog—Black Saddle gets lost; someone tries to take him—but finally, unexpected help shows up and all ends well.

Mark of a Champion by Thurman Thomas Scott (Longmans, Green and Co., Inc., New York, 1960, 214 pages, \$3.50) is the intriguing story of a young boy, Larry Chance, and his setter puppy. The plot is woven around the possible loss of the home place—the rightful owner being Larry. Given a setter puppy, Larry has to hide it away in the swamp to keep it. This necessitates daily trips to the swamp to feed the pup. On these trips, Larry encounters Sandra, a rich girl, and an escaped convict who endangers the lives of Larry's father, aunt, Sandra, and her mother. Breath-taking adventures are in store for young readers of this novel.

Jacqueline Morrell McNicol is the author of **Elizabeth for Lincoln** (Longmans, Green and Co., Inc., New York, 1960, 119 pages, \$2.50). Elizabeth is the ten-year-old daughter of the Shires. The setting is near Chenoa, Illinois, in the year Lincoln was running for President. Elizabeth is not typical of the girls of her day. Instead of being timid about horses, she liked nothing better than to ride sidesaddle; instead of hating to get her hands dirty, she loved planting flowers. In fact, Elizabeth just didn't fit the mold for a girl. Yet, here she was—a dreamy-eyed farm girl experiencing the biggest day of her life. It all started with the encounter with the stranger whose sleeve needed mending, then the ride on the train to

Springfield with him, next, meeting the President-elect and helping to avert a tragedy.

Teen-agers acquainted with other adventures of Marilda will welcome Esther W. Bates's third installment in **Marilda and the Bird of Time** (David McKay Company, Inc., New York, 1960, 184 pages, \$3). This is a story that touches with sympathy, humor, and understanding on all of the teen-age girl's world—on all of the problems of growing up, school, clothes, and BOYS! Marilda finds her freshman year at Ledgewood High full of exciting ups-and-downs. For one thing, being president of her class is a shock and quite an honor, but in due time proves to be quite a problem. Everyone seems to have ideas about what she should be doing. In addition to this, her grades take a flip for the worse, and to complicate things further, the charming Rose Hastings enters the picture. In the end, things work out. Marilda is the typical fun-loving, but conscientious, girl whom readers will not want to miss.

For Children

Although Easter was celebrated last month, *Hearthstone's* readers will be interested in **Glad Easter Day** (Abingdon Press, Nashville, 1961, unpagged, \$1.25) written by Mary Edna Lloyd and illustrated by June Goldsborough. This is a book written for children, ages three to six, for the purpose of helping young children to understand Easter better. The fact that "he lives" or Jesus lives is an emphasis that can well be stressed at times other than Easter Day. Parents will welcome this book as one of the few written for the young child, interpreting the meaning of Easter at his level of understanding.

For older children, nine and up, Elizabeth Allstrom presents **Songs Along the Way** (Abingdon Press, Nashville, 1961, 64 pages, \$2.50). This book can well serve as an introduction to the Book of Psalms of the Holy Bible. Backgrounds of representative songs that express joy, sorrow, praise, and longing are given along with each selected psalm. The great spiritual values are lifted up in each of the psalms presented. The expressive and impressive woodcut illustrations, in color, by Mel Silverman enhance the beauty and

appreciation of the Psalms so ably described by the author.

For Adults

The Bible is read from many points of view. A rather unusual one is presented in **Laughter in the Bible** by Gary Webster (The Bethany Press, St. Louis, Mo., 1960, 160 pages, \$3). Laughter is seen as a medium for showing us things about ourselves that we would not otherwise see. It bears on fundamental things of life and thought, as the author brings out in the many biblical references to laughter—amusement, mirth, delight, and joy. The survey of laughter includes both the Old and New Testaments. The chapters treat laughter in such a way as to throw light upon life as a whole. Two especially appealing chapters are: "Jesus' Use of Humor" and "The Laughter of God."

From the well-known writer of verse, Grace Noll Crowell, comes another book **Vital Possessions** (Abingdon Press, New York, 1960, 108 pages, \$1.50) consisting of fourteen devotions in prose and poetry. The possessions chosen are: the Bible, church, home, country, neighbor, untraveled regions, beauty, memory, stewardship, prayer, simplicity, life, Jesus, and the ultimate triumph. Each subject is dealt with by using scripture, prose and poetry in such a way as to open our awareness to the things of life that are most worthwhile.

A paperbound book about Alexander Campbell and his life and times is now available in **The Sage of Bethany** (The Bethany Press, St. Louis, Mo., 1960, 189 pages, \$1.95). This book is a collection of essays by outstanding religious leaders of our day, and is compiled by Perry E. Gresham. Chapters include: Alexander Campbell—Schoolmaster by Perry E. Gresham; The Age of Alexander Campbell by Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.; Pioneer in Broadcloth by W. E. Garrison; The Drama of Alexander Campbell by Louis Cochran; Alexander Campbell and Church Unity by Roland Bainton; Alexander's Views on Baptism by Stephen J. England; Alexander Campbell and the Social Order by Roland Bainton; A. C. Against Socialism by Perry E. Gresham; A. C.'s Political Activity and Views by Harold L. Lunger; and A. C. and the Judgment of History by Eva Jean Wrather.



Over the back fence

What Does the Church Say?

During the first week of May several hundred leaders of American churches will be gathered at Green Lake, Wisconsin in a Conference on Church and Family. The Conference is being called by the Canadian Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

There are five purposes established for the Conference: To help churches to:

1. Clarify and articulate their understandings of the fundamental nature of marriage and the distinctive character and responsibility of the Christian family in our culture;
2. Understand the social and psychological factors affecting the formation of marriages and families;
3. Develop a Christian ethic of sexual behavior and to answer persuasively the questions of this generation;
4. Provide clarification regarding the moral aspects of the newer developments in family planning;
5. Strengthen their ministry to families as an integral task of the mission of the church through better-trained leadership and stronger programs of family life education and counseling.

To fulfill these purposes the following topics will receive thorough consideration: The Nature of Christian Marriage and Family Life; The Church and Divorce and Remarriage; The Church and Early Marriage; The Church and Mixed Marriage; Christian Ethics and Teen-age Behavior; Christian Ethics and Premarital Pregnancy; Christian Ethics and Illegitimacy; Christian Ethics and Sexual Deviation; Christian Ethics and Infidelity; Christian Ethics and Family Planning; Christian Ethics and Abortion; Christian Ethics and Sterilization; The Church's Ministry to Families; The Minister as Teacher and Counselor; Lay Leadership in Family Life Programs.

It will be seen from this list that

the conferees have set themselves to handle some knotty problems. It is hoped that out of a careful consideration will come something approaching a common mind for the churches of North America to present to the world on these significant issues.

Many of those who edit and write for *Hearthstone* will be participants in this conference. Editors of its work will be heard in future issues. Readers need to remember that the long publishing schedule of our magazine means that it will be fall before we can carry much in the way of findings from this historic meeting.

Seven Keys to Wifely Appreciation for Husbands

A conference of Belgian wives has listed the following seven marks of a good husband:

1. Tenderness and appreciation instead of grumbling and complaint.
2. Courtesy and common politeness.
3. Sociability at home as well as in company.
4. Understanding of woman's temperaments and patience.
5. Fairness in financial matters.
6. No snide remarks, sneering criticisms in the presence of other people, especially the children.
7. Plain honesty, truthfulness, straightforwardness.

These Belgian wives said that these are all keys which the husband controls. He alone can use them to unlock the doors to a satisfactory marriage.

Hearthstone concurs, along with many family life leaders in other countries, with the Italian magazine, *La Casa*, which said these qualities are equally true in Italy as in Belgium.

News Note

Married couples sharing a home with others (usually relatives) are fewer in number than perhaps ever before, according to U. S. Census data. Only 2.4 per cent now have no separate home of their own.

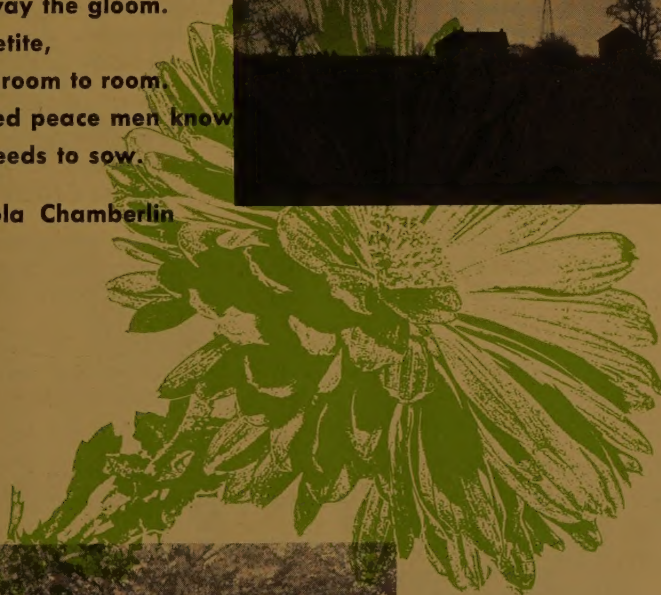
Farm at Dusk

Now all the barking tractors have been stilled;
 Their acrid smoke has ceased to ride the air.
 The sunset sky, no longer daffodiled,
 Has drawn a veil across the day time glare.
 The lowing cows have found their waiting stalls,
 The patient sheep lie calmly in their pens.
 No more is heard the black crow's raucous calls,
 The peevish cluck of daylight-tired hens.
 But in the house the haloed lamps are bright,
 They search each corner, drive away the gloom.
 The scents of supper stir the appetite,
 And song and laughter drift from room to room.
 And peace is here, the well-earned peace men know
 When they have chosen proper seeds to sow.

—Enola Chamberlin



H. Armstrong Roberts



—Indiana Department of Conservation

Our Visit

We went to visit an old mill one day,
 My Grandpa and Grandma and I,
 We saw the waterwheel now in de-
 cay,
 The grinding stones turned thereby.

And Grandpa told of grain ground to
 flour
 Which Grandma made into bread;
 It was also the place where news of
 the hour
 Was told for people to spread.

We hope there will always be an old
 mill
 To visit and learn of the past,
 A place to listen, to think, and be
 still—
 Says Grandpa, "The days go too
 fast!"

Eva N. Ehrman

Books for Mother

"Greater Men and Women of the Bible," by Will Sessions. Biographical sketches and religious interpretations of 52 outstanding biblical personalities from Adam to Luke, the familiar and the little-known. \$3.50

"Great Women of the Christian Faith," by Edith Deen. Inspiring biographies of outstanding women through 19 centuries of Christianity—from many times, countries and denominations. \$4.95

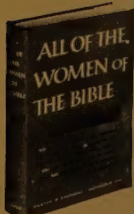
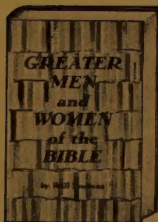
"Great Women of the Bible," by Clarence E. Macartney. The fascination of Delilah, the decision of Ruth, the beauty of Rachel, the ambition of Rebekah, the faith of Rahab, the eloquence of Abigail, the efficiency of Martha, the meditation of Mary—these and other stories are told in this composite picture of the women of the Bible. \$2.00

"All the Women of the Bible," by Edith Deen. Here in this Bible portrait gallery are women of our common humanity: 316 concise biographies of the women of the Bible, recreated so that they may be seen as real human beings. \$4.95; *de luxe leather gift edition*, \$15.00

"White Mother," by Jessie Bennett Sams. No sermon on intolerance, no tirade for or against segregation, could hit home with the impact of this warm, appealing story of little twin Negro girls and their white "mother." \$3.95

"None So Small," by Frances P. Reid. In simple yet almost poetic language here are dozens of brief experiences leading the reader into reflection and prayer. *Paper*, \$1.50

"Meditations for the New Mother," by Helen Good Brenneman. This is a devotional book for the new mother during the first month following the birth of her baby. *Paper*, \$1.25



AMERICAN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY
1703 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia 3, Pa.

CHRISTIAN BOARD OF PUBLICATION
Box 179, St. Louis 66, Missouri